

エロイカより愛をこめて

NO. 1

From Eroica With Love #1
by Yasuko Aoike

Trans. Kx.

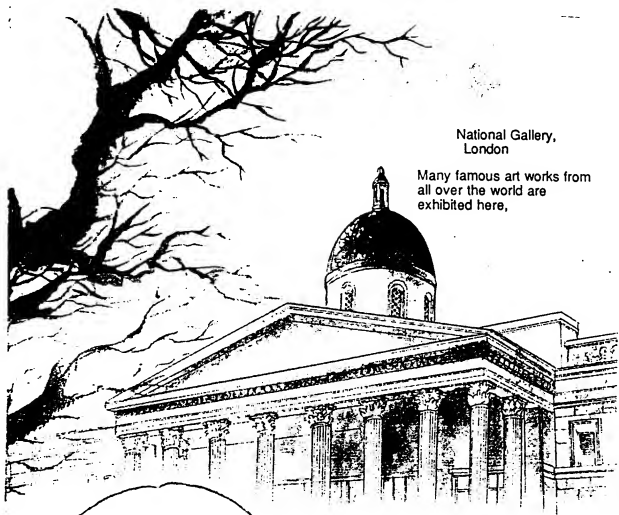
The three
of them
share
e.s.p.

Leopard Solid,
stuntman,
19 years old.

Sugar Plum,
art student,
16 years old.

Caesar Gabriel,
a professor at
London University,
18 years old.





National Gallery,
London

Many famous art works from
all over the world are
exhibited here,

And...
my favorite
16th century
Italian
painter...
Bronzino
...his
"Venus
and
Cupid
-- An
Allegory."



You come
here often.
Any
favorite
paintings?

Why,
of
course
...



such as
e Michelangelo's,
t Botticelli's,
c Rembrandt's,
e Raphael's,
t Van Dyke's
c





Being sweet sixteen
and everything, I
can't say very loudly
that I love such an
erotic painting.

but the cupid
who's kissing
Venus is just
wonderful to me.

I get ecstatic
just by
standing
in front of
this painting.

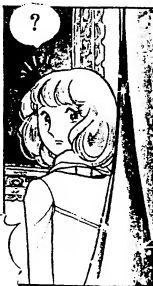
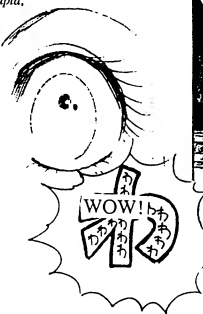
Soft golden
curls on his
forehead and
his sexy
eyes...

Oooh

I couldn't believe my
eyes for a moment. There
was the Cupid,

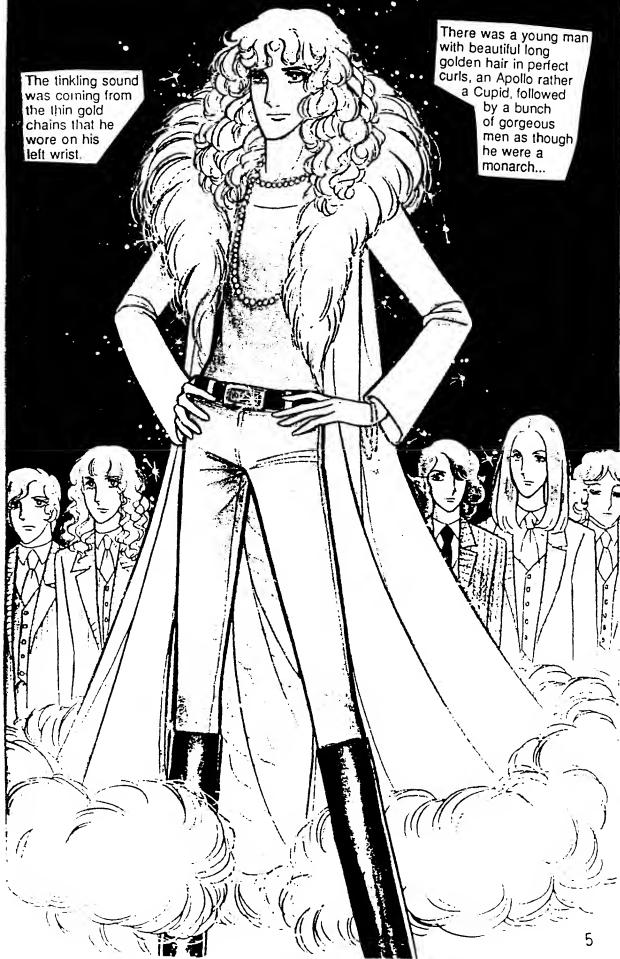
K.O...

The Cupid
who had
won
to his
20's...



The tinkling sound
was coming from
the thin gold
chains that he
wore on his
left wrist.


There was a young man
with beautiful long
golden hair in perfect
curls, an Apollo rather
a Cupid, followed
by a bunch
of gorgeous
men as though
he were a
monarch...





It is almost like a shunga.

Wonderful...
The only realistic kiss scene in the history of Western painting.



My, he sure can say a lot more than he looks like he should!

"Shunga"? Aren't they a kind of really erotic painting, rated X and everything?



He's very sexy...

I... I agree.

Well, I mean...



This Cupid looks like me ...

...I like this very much



Is something wrong, pretty lady? You're turning all red.

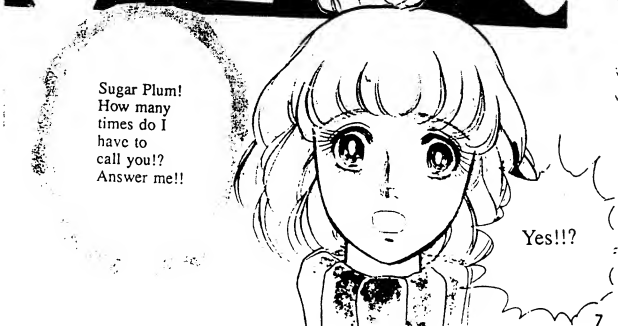
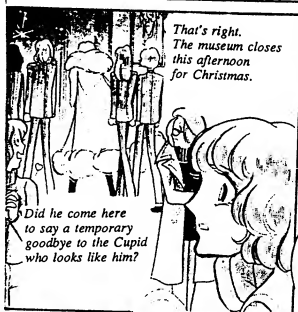
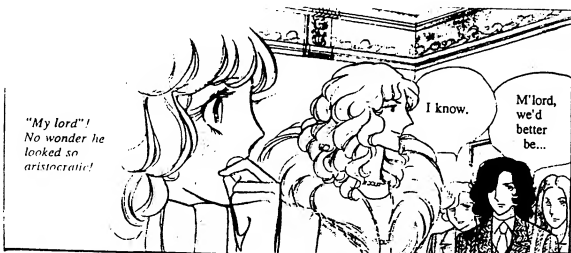


My! He even spoke to me!



You seem to have a strong sense of esthetics, I see.

Is this painting a little too sensational for a young girl like yourself?



He just went past me. I think he's about as good-looking as our Caesar.

Oh, did you see him?

Drooling over the super-handsome man with the curly blond hair, weren't you?

I'm sorry. I was ...

Oh, your face! What happened?

He's too embarrassed to come see that painting.

I'm talking to Leopard who is waiting outside the museum right now.

Sorry I'm late...

A little mistake in falling off a motorbike going 200 kph.

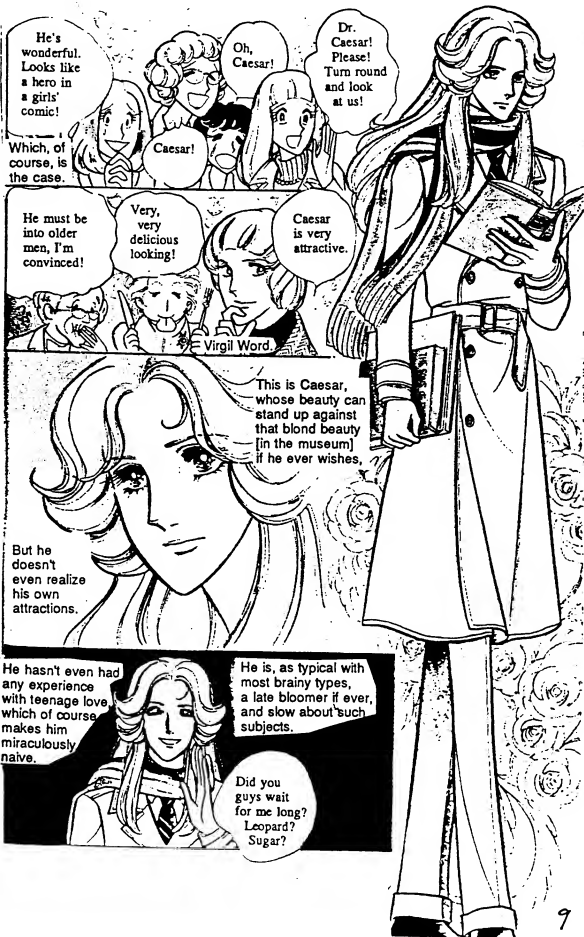
What're all those pink and green hearts flying around for?

Oh, that's Caesar. It's the usual phenomenon.

An ordinary person would've been hurt real bad,

but as for me...

Leopard is wearing a band-aid.



He's wonderful. Looks like a hero in a girls' comic!

Which, of course, is the case.

Caesar!

Oh, Caesar!

Dr. Caesar! Please! Turn round and look at us!

He must be into older men, I'm convinced!

Very, very delicious looking!

Caesar is very attractive.

Virgil Word.

This is Caesar, whose beauty can stand up against that blond beauty [in the museum] if he ever wishes.

But he doesn't even realize his own attractions.

He hasn't even had any experience with teenage love, which of course makes him miraculously naive.

He is, as typical with most brainy types, a late bloomer if ever, and slow about such subjects.

Did you guys wait for me long? Leopard? Sugar?

We can communicate telepathically among ourselves.

'S all right, Sugar. He's got a special system.

Yep. Been here a long time. Let's go eat NOW.

and we also share a particular secret...

Leopard! You perpetual glutton!

The three of us are old childhood pals,



In the summer five years ago when we all went to Peru, that ancient Inca empire, with our explorer parents, we kids got lost alone deep in the Nasca highlands.

Perhaps they should be called super-natural powers...

The old man gave us some special powers for survival.

and when we were about to drop, an old man came out and saved us.

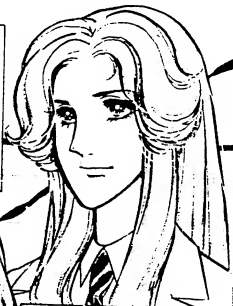
We walked three days and three nights without any food,

Nobody besides us knows of this, though.

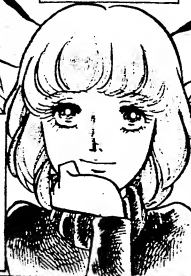




Sugar Plum's five senses plus the "sixth sense" are developed to a paranormal degree.



Leopard Solid developed motor coordination such that if he entered the Olympics, he would surely make superhuman records in every category.



Caesar Gabriel, intelligent to begin with, now speaks 20 languages, holds 15 doctorate degrees and can play many musical instruments. He has become a capital-G genius and despite his youth now teaches at a university.

I guess there are many mysterious phenomena in nature even today.

We didn't get to know what that old man was after all.

Maybe this is what the old man planned for us, that we remain good friends and help each other all the time...

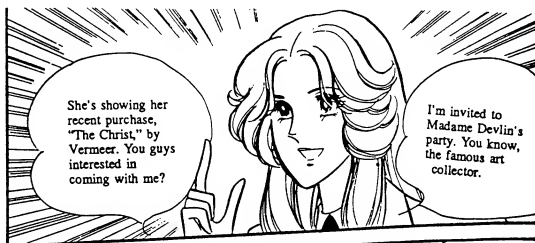
I don't think so either.

I don't.

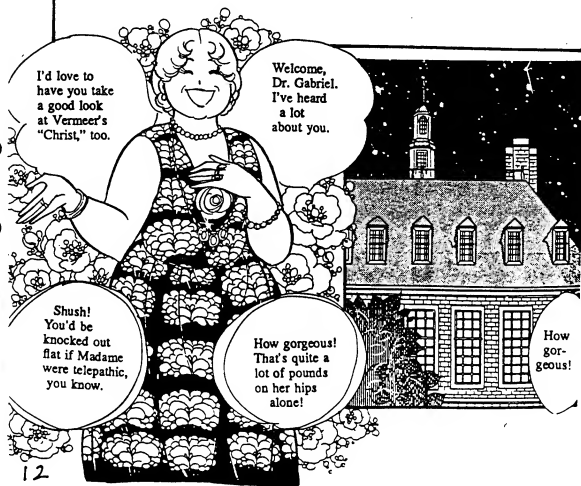
Do you have any plans for Christmas Eve, tomorrow?

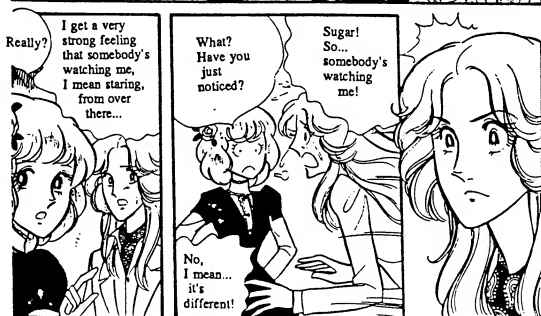
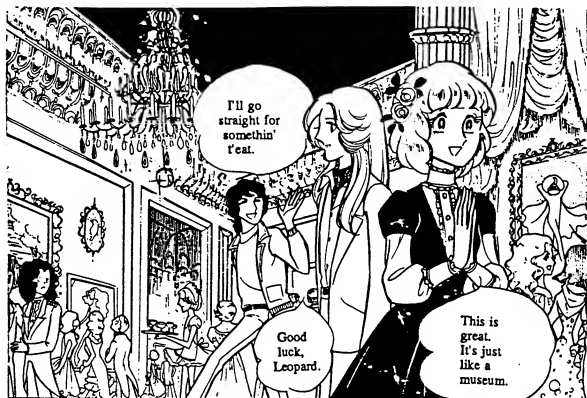
The three of us with three different powers can maintain our personal balances only when we are all together.

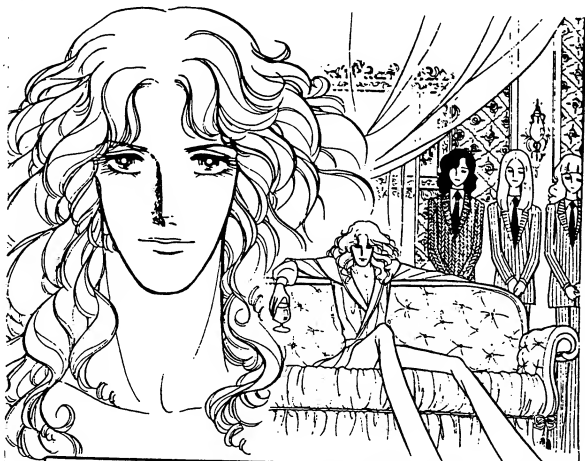




And then the drama begins...





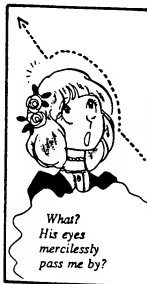


Did you
enjoy the
Cupid?

Well, we
meet again,
pretty
lady.

Powder!
Lipstick!

The
nobleman
of the
golden
curls!



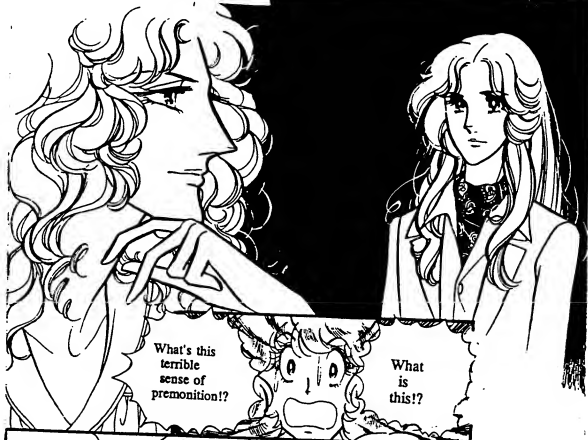
What?
His eyes
mercilessly
pass me by?



Oh my,
well,
I'm not
...

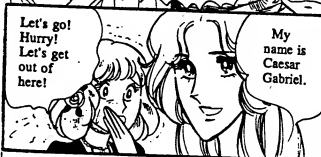


Beau-
tiful!



What's this terrible sense of premonition!?

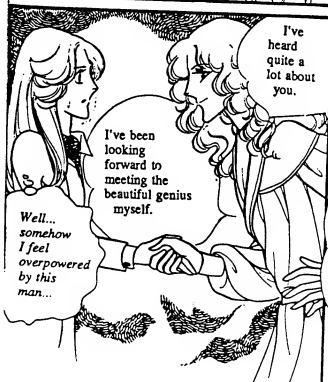
What is this!?



Let's go! Hurry! Let's get out of here!

My name is Caesar Gabriel.

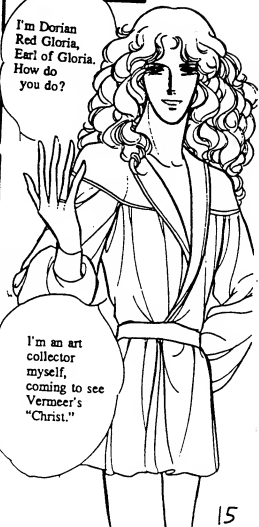
I'm Dorian Red Gloria, Earl of Gloria. How do you do?



I've heard quite a lot about you.

I've been looking forward to meeting the beautiful genius myself.

Well... somehow I feel overpowered by this man...



I'm an art collector myself, coming to see Vermeer's "Christ."



Caesar,
watch
out!
Get away
from
there!!

What?

You are a
masterpiece
nature has
created...

Angelic
fine hair
...
slender
body and
supreme
intelligence.
...



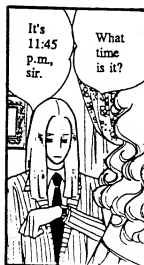
Well, I guess
I had a
little chill
somehow,
come to
think of
it.

Huh!



I don't know why
either, but I just
sensed that something
terrible will
happen to
you.

What was
it? You
scared
me.



It's
11:45
p.m.,
sir.

What
time
is it?



You
should be
calculating
things by
now.

What is
it, Mr.
James?

My
lord
...



And then
...
Merry
Christmas
...

In 15
minutes
Christmas
Eve will
be over.

They must
be 'aving
a great
time in
town...

It's such a drag
to get graveyard
shift on Christmas
Eve, innit?

DING DONG

Wanna
party
with us?

Merry
Christmas,
you
guys!

DING DONG

Whoa!
Gorgeous
chicks!

This
is our
Christmas
gift for
you.

Merry
Christ-
mas!

Oh, don't
be an
ass. It's
Christmas!

Hey, nobody
besides
staff is
admitted
here!

pffft

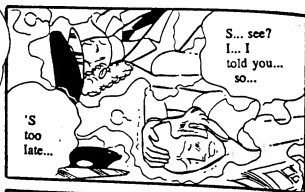
EROKA



Take everything in the room.

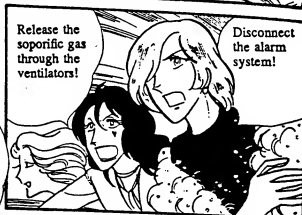
The target is the third room to the left. Nothing else is to be touched.

Act swiftly but calmly!



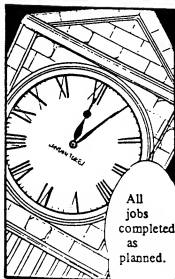
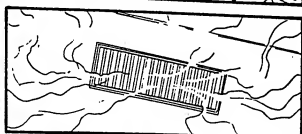
'S too late...

S... see?
I... I told you... so...



Release the soporific gas through the ventilators!

Disconnect the alarm system!

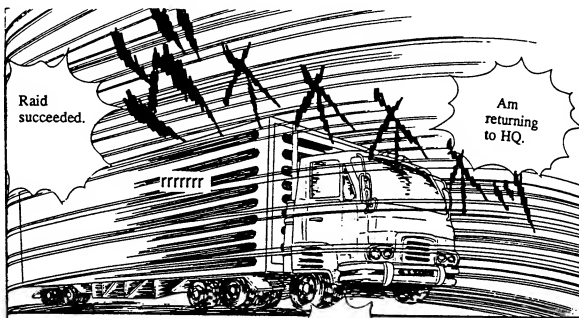


All jobs completed as planned.



That one must be handled with very special care!

Got it.



Raid
succeeded.

Am
returning
to HQ.



Met
com-
pleted!

Louvre
raid a
success!

The same thing
happened at the
Louvre museum
in Paris and the
Metropolitan
Museum of Art
in New York City.

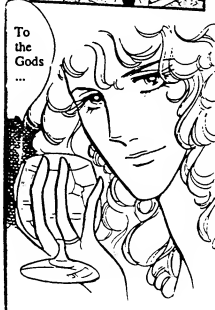


Glory
to the
Gods!

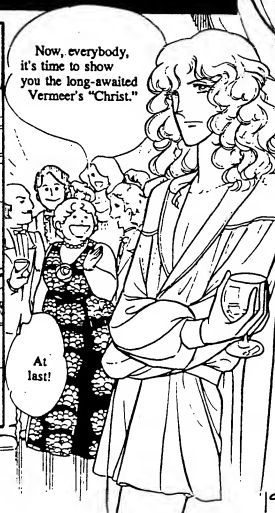
Merry
Christ-
mas.



My
lord
...



To the
Gods
...



Now, everybody,
it's time to show
you the long-awaited
Vermeer's "Christ."

At
last!

A Dutch painter
from 300 years
ago. He's as
famous as
Rembrandt.

What's
Vermeer?

Leopard,
you still
eating?

That's
Marlon
Brando!

Oh, I see.
The guy in
Godfather,
isn't he?

Rem-
brandt
is...

Idiot!

Why
don't
we go
see the
Vermeer?

Your attention
please. *This* is
the painting of
Christ as a
young man.

£300,000
sure is a
lot of
money,
though.

Oh,
this is
just marvel-
lous!

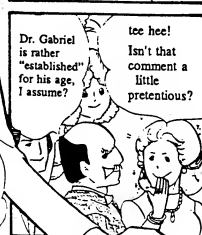
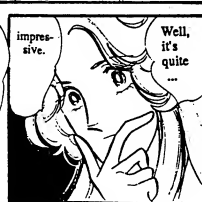
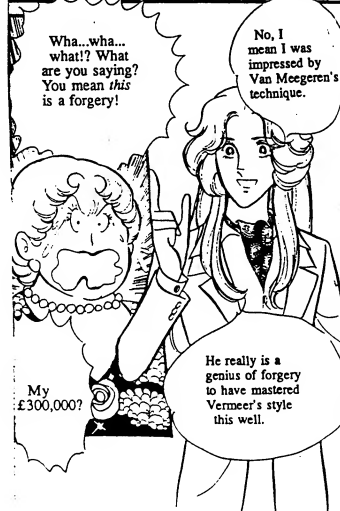
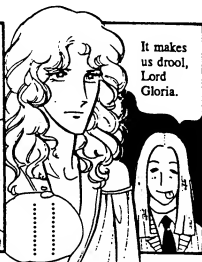
Look at that
graceful use
of blue and
yellow! It's
simply
breathtaking.

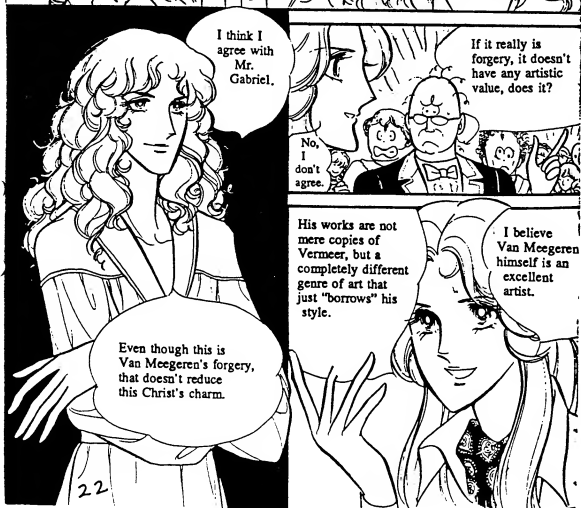
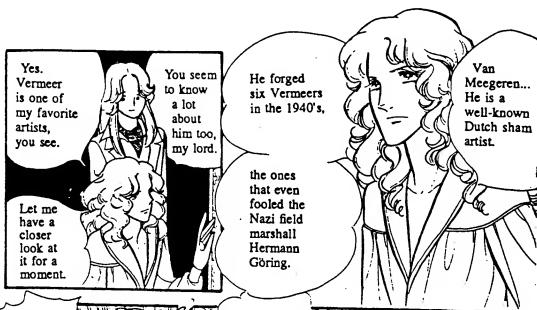
Well, it's a
very handsome
Christ in any
case, tee hee.

Reckon
wealth
does make
a
difference.

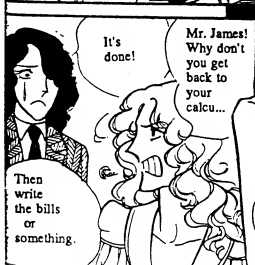
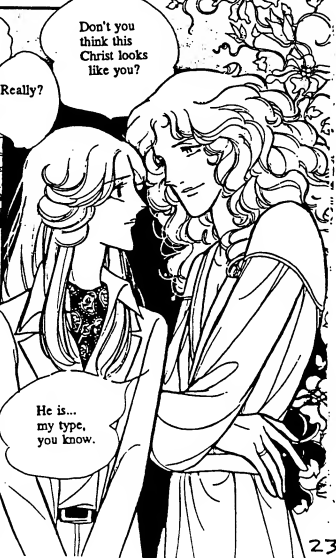
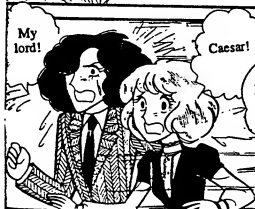
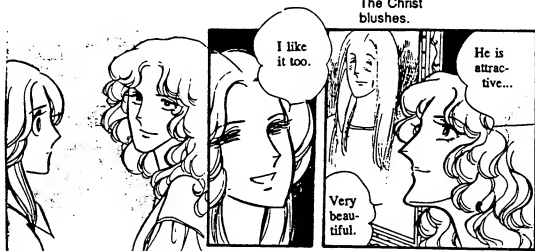


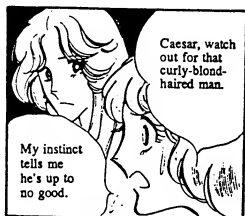
Excuse me.





The Christ
blushes.





In England all the Florence paintings in the Third Gallery at the National Museum were stolen.

On the 25th at midnight, top museums in London, Paris and New York City were raided by a group called "Eroica." Many important paintings were stolen in these raids.

We interrupt this program with a special report.

Wait, some new information has just arrived!

Then, my favorite Bronzino as well?

Sounds like a commercial for cosmetics.

That's conceited. Who'd say such a thing as "from Eroica with love"?

エロイカより愛をこめて
支払いを請求

Think it's from Beethoven's "Eroica," meaning "The Hero."

ポツケル 5
ミケランジェロ 5
マンティニャ 5
コレジョ 5
7441

It says: *From Eroica with love, we request the payment of the following amount in exchange for the paintings.*

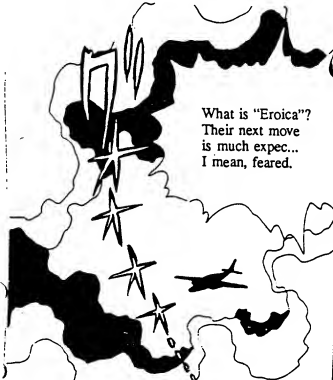
The museum is said to have received a detailed ransom note, a bill rather, just now.

The total amount requested is... well, I can't read it with all those zeros...

...in the living room or bedroom or something.

Suppose the thief doesn't want to return it. Maybe he's planning to set it up

Wait a minute. There isn't a price for Bronzino's "Allegory"!



What is "Eroica"?
Their next move
is much expect...
I mean, feared.

It's very
detailed...
...even
miserly,
I'd say.

明細書

The bill also
includes items
other than
paintings that
were stolen
along with them.

This could be the
boldest, cleverest
and most tactful
organized theft in
the history of
art theft!



Turn in
the next
estimate.

he
he
he

After
we get
back to
the
castle
...

It's all
for you,
M'lord.

Mr. James,
you are
a very
competent
accountant.

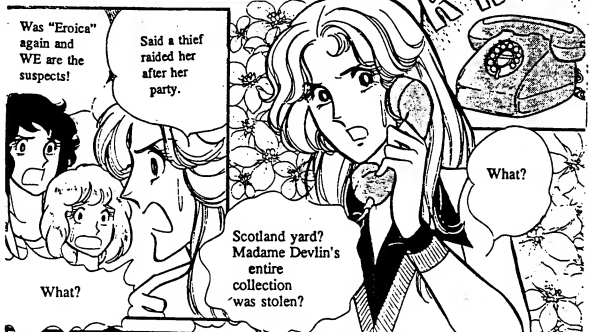
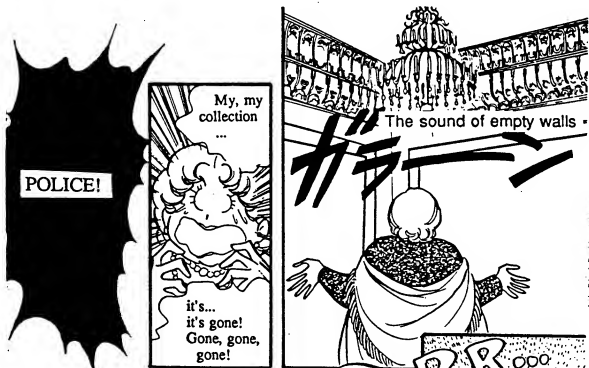
I think stealing
a worthless
counterfeit is
such a...

My goal is to
obtain art and beauty.
The money I gain in
exchange for paintings
is only an extra.

Applaud,
everybody!

Madame Devlin
must be going
wild by now,
mustn't she,
my lord?





Who the hell's saying such a silly thing?

Said you guys were the prime suspects.

How'd we ever get to be suspects!

Boo hoo hoo

That's a completely false accusation!

Taroo Bannai from Interpol!!

Don't play innocent with me.

Who are you?

I was dispatched to investigate the "Eroica" case.

and then another day he's...

One day he's a mysterious Chinaman,

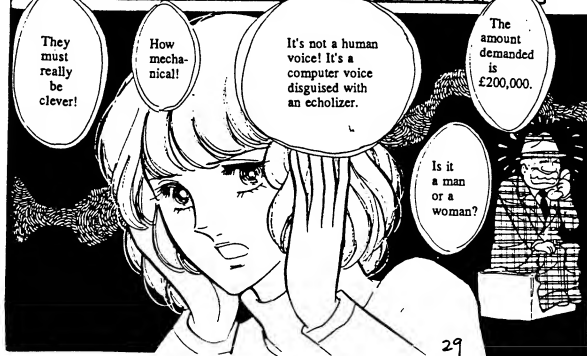
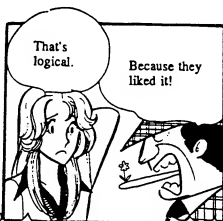
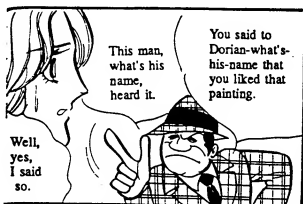
There was a counterfeit picture by Ver-what's-his-name.

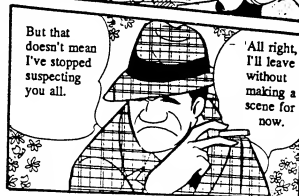
W... wait a minute! What is your evidence to say such an outrageous thing?

Now confess, you wicked thief of thieves!

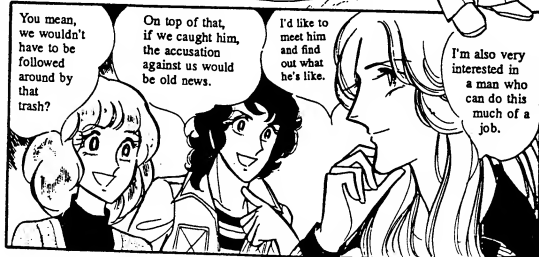
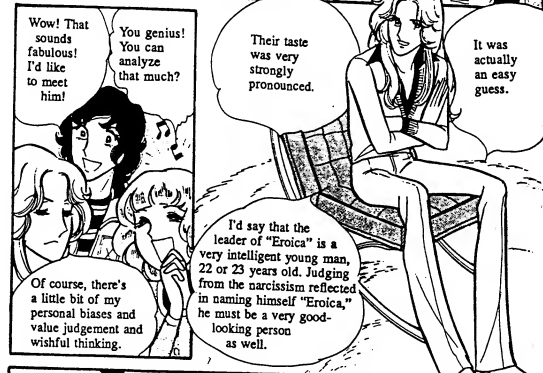
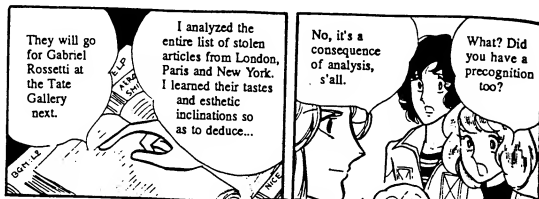
Every-thing's clear to me.

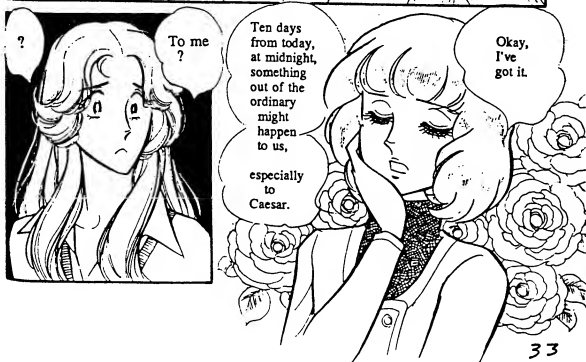
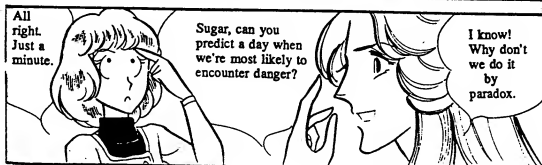
Why do you suppose they stole such a worthless painting?

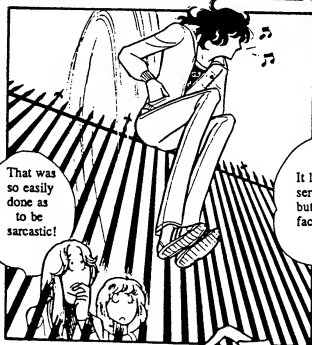
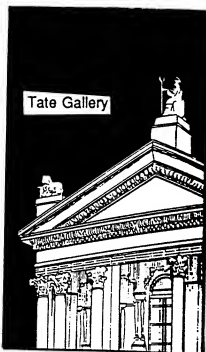
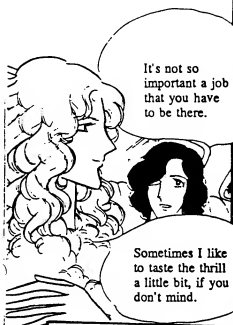


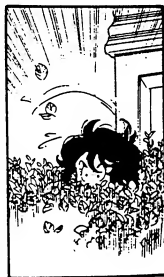
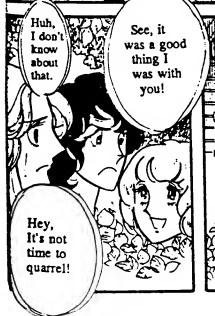
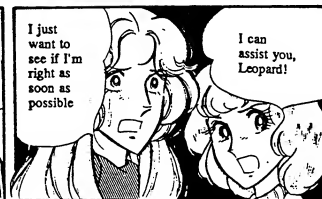


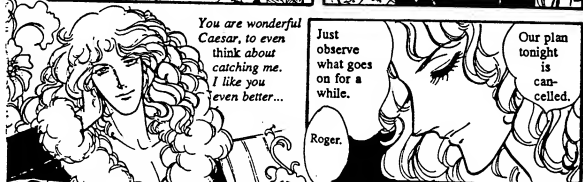
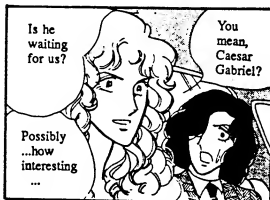
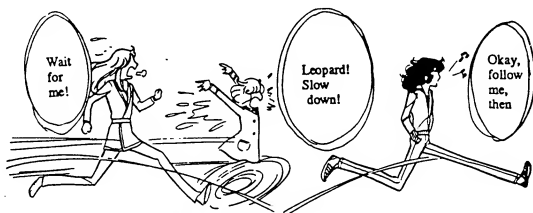














Let's
jump into
somewhere,
anyway.

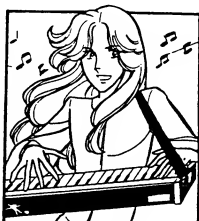
Run!
Baffle
Tarao
Bannail

He must
have c.s.p.
himself.

Heath!
You're
wonder-
ful!

EVE
DISCO

Justin!
You're
sooo
cute!



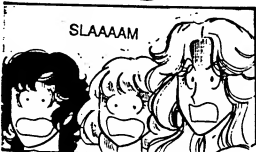
Oh yeh.

And then one day, he is a chubby bassist,

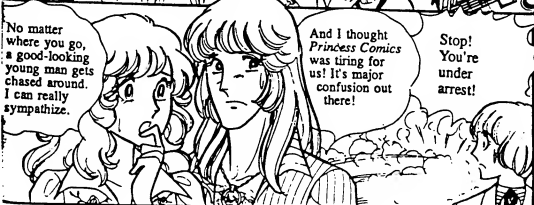


Heath, I think we're in the wrong comic.

The author! She's fooling around again.



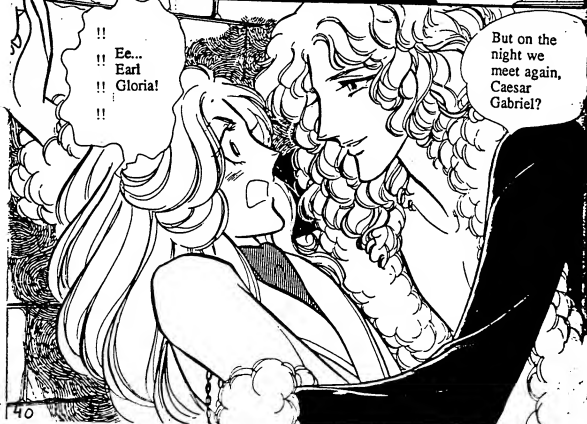
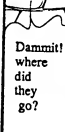
SLAAAAAM

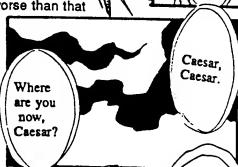
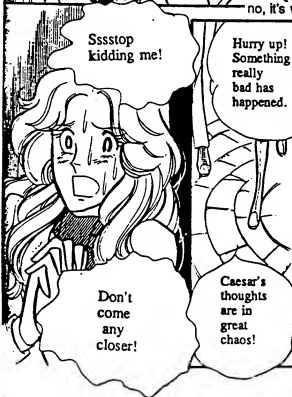
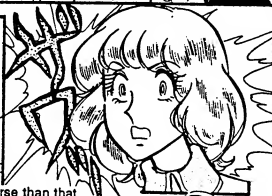
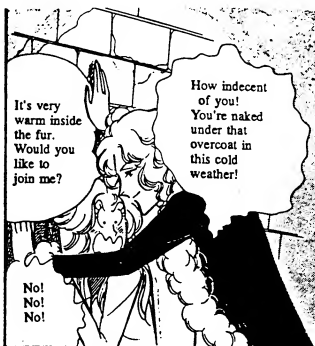


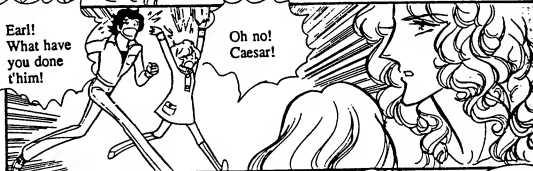
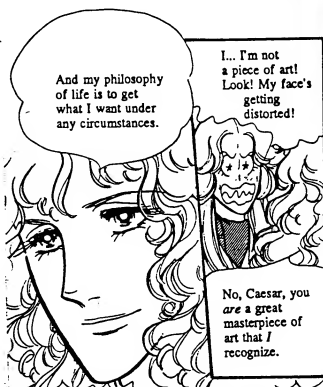
No matter where you go, a good-looking young man gets chased around. I can really sympathize.

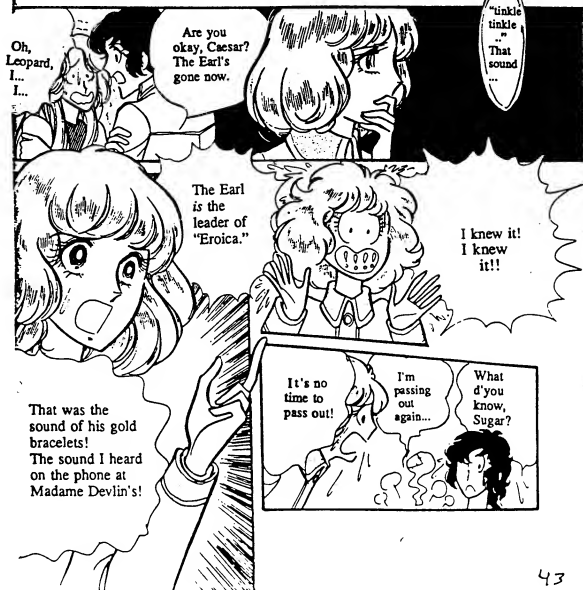
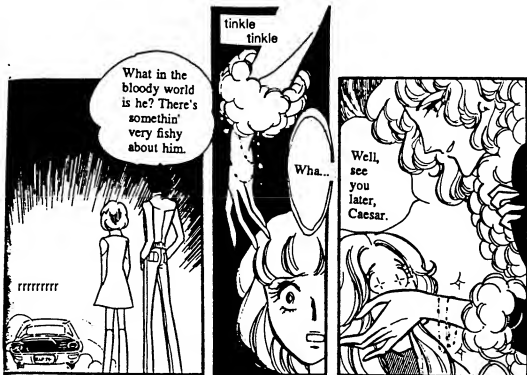
And I thought *Princess Comics* was tiring for us! It's major confusion out there!

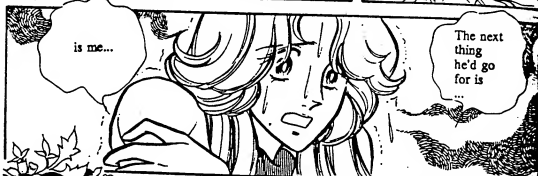
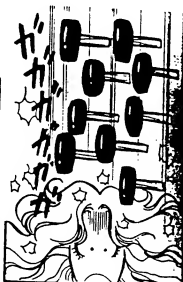
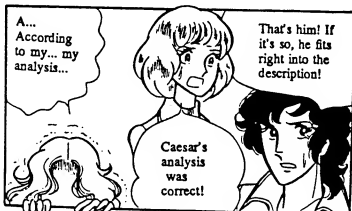
Stop! You're under arrest!





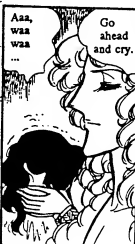


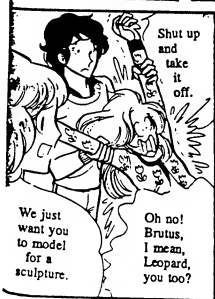
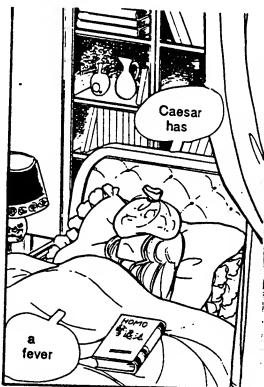


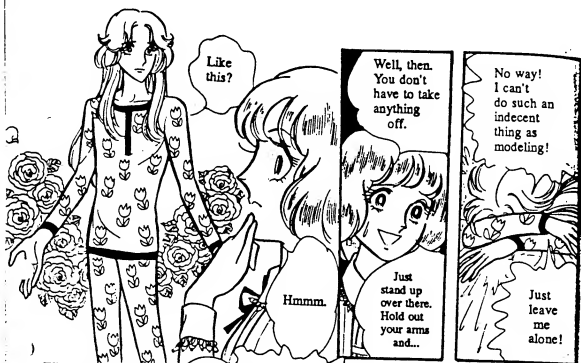


To me, Caesar is the beauty of all the beauty there is.

Even if I had all the artwork in the world, my collection would never be complete until I have him in my hands.







Well, then.
You don't
have to take
anything
off.

No way!
I can't
do such an
indecent
thing as
modeling!

Just
stand up
over there.
Hold out
your arms
and...

Just
leave
me
alone!



Sugar is
clairvoyant
too!!

'S
cute
...

aaaghhh!

I said
his floral
underwear
was cute...

Men are
you know...
very
delicate
about some
things...

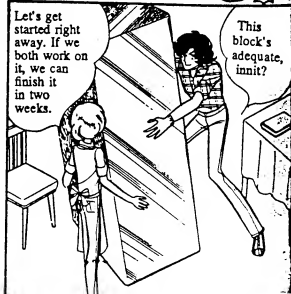


Caesar
is shocked.



Well, at
least we
can try.

I wonder if
we can fool
him with this,
though.




Let's get
started right
away. If we
both work on
it, we can
finish it
in two
weeks.

This
block's
adequate,
innit?



The Earl is
too devoted
to Caesar to
ignore this...

There should be
some kind of
reaction.



And a perverted
earl is after me
and my friends are...
Uhhh, how unfortunate
I am...

What are they doing?
My masculine pride has
been so hurt that
it's beyond recovery...



We're
gonna
pray for
your health,
dear.

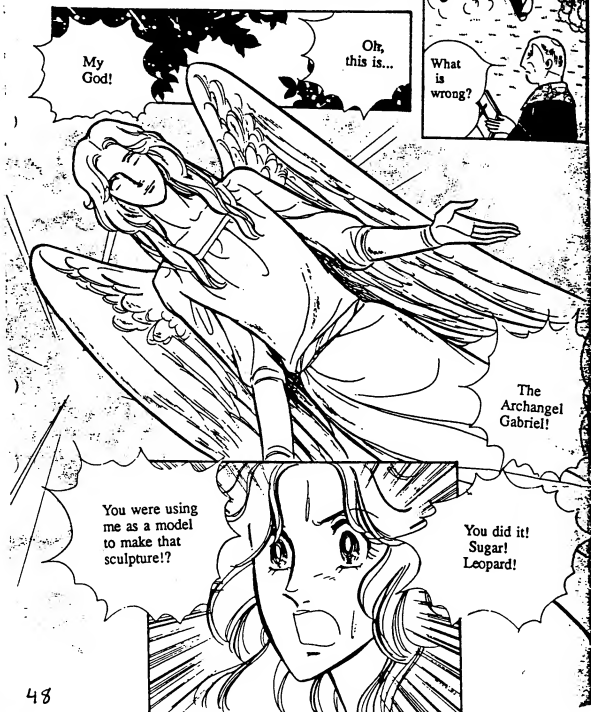
Caesar,
we're
going out
for a
while.

To
West-
minster
Abbey.

Where
at this
hour?
It's
midnight.



What are they
conspiring
about, I
wonder...



Anyway, I'm
relieved
that it
wasn't
nude.



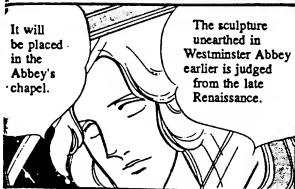
It looks
so much
like you.
Even the
Earl will
want it.

That's not
a late
Renaissance
sculpture!
It was made
in a week!



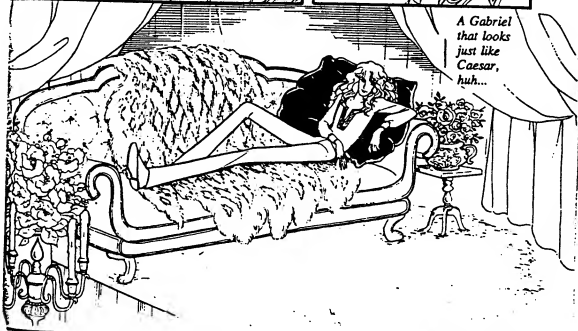
It will
be placed
in the
Abbey's
chapel.

The sculpture
unearthed in
Westminster Abbey
earlier is judged
from the late
Renaissance.

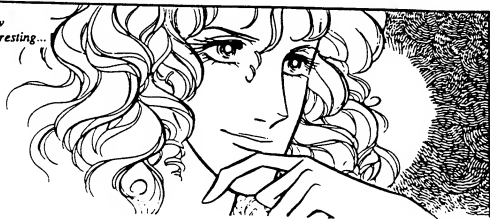


And we'll
catch him
when he
comes to
steal it.

A Gabriel
that looks
just like
Caesar,
huh...



How
interesting...





*Caesar,
I will have
you in my
hands, no
matter
what...*

*The more
the prey
resists,
the higher
the
pleasure
of the
hunt,*

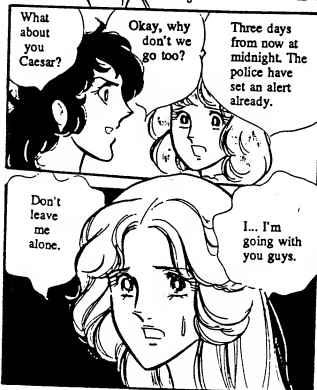
*especially
when the
prey is a
beautiful
creature...*

But
that
is
...

Tell the Abbey
that we'll take
that Gabriel
at 12 midnight,
three days from
now.

I know.
It's a
silly
trick,

but it's not
a bad idea to
play along
with them
for a while.



What
about
you
Caesar?

Okay, why
don't we
go too?

Three days
from now at
midnight. The
police have
set an alert
already.

Don't
leave
me
alone.

I... I'm
going with
you guys.



So, he
fell
into
our net?

The Earl
has
contacted
them!

I was at the
Abbey all day
to listen to
the monks'
conversation.

When
will
it be?



They're
very
sneaky!

Don't
be off
guard!



For
now,
yes,
sir.

Every-
thing
all
right?



Boy,
he
sticks
out.

Called
Tarao
Bannai.

What
is he?

I don't
think Eroica
can get through
this heavy guard.



We're
here.

Caesar,
stop
shaking
so
much.



R...
really?

But I
also
sense
something
very bad
...

It's
getting
nearer
...



Will
the
Earl
show
up?

It's
five
to
midnight.

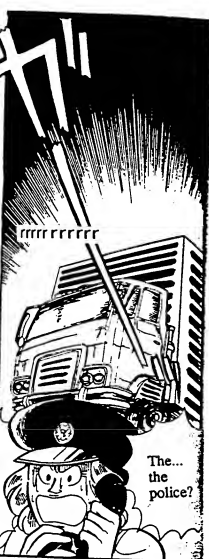


Goodness!
It's
"Eroica"!



The
British
Museum

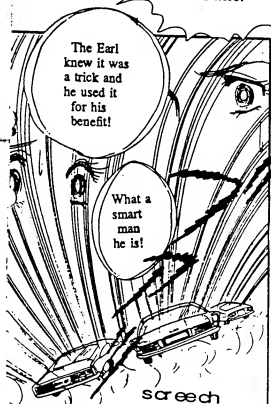
screech



The...
the police?

Their
true
target
was here!

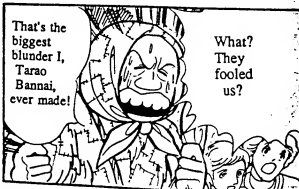
The British
Museum was
just raided
by "Eroica"!



The Earl
knew it was
a trick and
he used it
for his
benefit!

What a
smart
man
he is!

screech



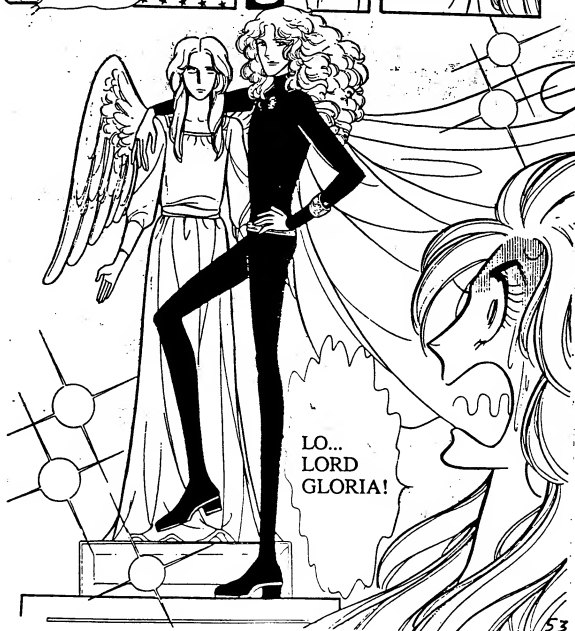
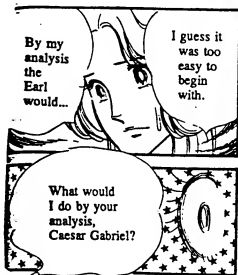
That's the
biggest
blunder I,
Tarao
Bannai,
ever made!

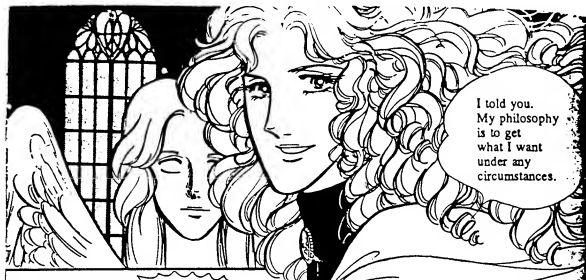
What?
They
fooled
us?



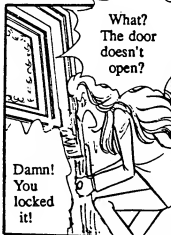
Hurry!
Hurry!

Everybody!
Rush to
the British
Museum!





I told you.
My philosophy
is to get
what I want
under any
circumstances.

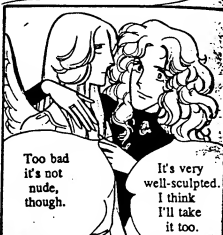


What?
The door
doesn't
open?

Damn!
You
locked
it!



Don't say
such a horny
thing!



Too bad
it's not
nude,
though.

It's very
well-sculpted.
I think
I'll take
it too.



this
instead.

pfft

Then,
I won't
come near
you, but
I'll do

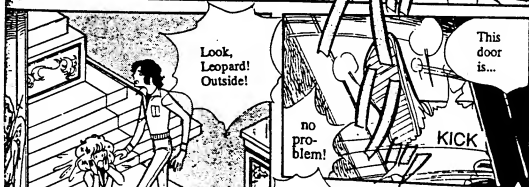
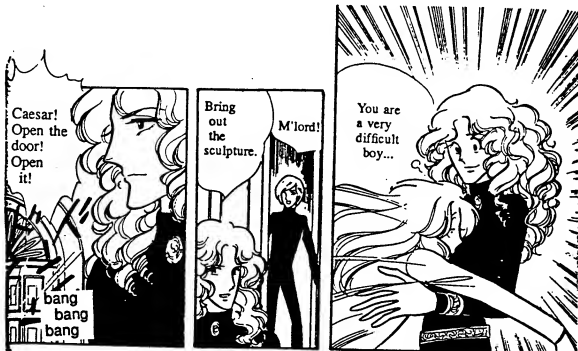


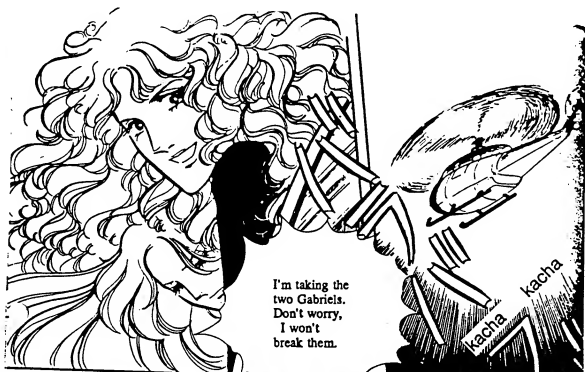
Ah?



Come on,
Caesar,
be a good
boy and
come over
here

No!
Go
away!





I'm taking the
two Gabriels.
Don't worry,
I won't
break them.



Of course not!
Give him
back!

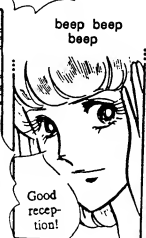
Caesar!



Damn!
He
did it!



Let's
chase
them!
Hurry!



beep beep
beep

Good
recep-
tion!



I put a
sounder
signal
on it.

At least it
was a good
thing he
stole the
sculpture
as well.



Too good
for me to
appreciate,
however.

You seem to
have very
good friends,
Caesar.



Caesar, you're
finally going
to join my
collection



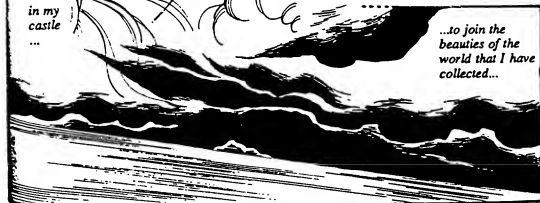
in my
castle
...

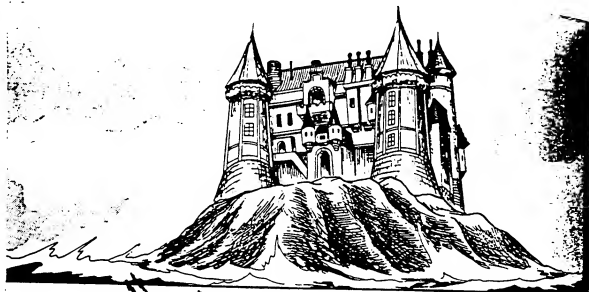


M'lord,
those two
two are
chasing
us.

What a nuisance.
They can't
catch up with
us, anyway.

...to join the
beauties of the
world that I have
collected...





Okay, I'll
accelerate.
Hang on,
Sugar.

Leopard, the beep's
getting closer.
We're getting near
"Eroica's" base.

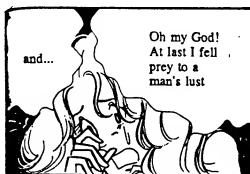
Caesar
...

Be on
your guard
'til then.

We're
coming
to rescue
you.

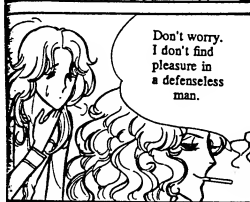
Caesar,
can you
hear me?

Caesar,
if you
can hear
me, answer
me.



and...

Oh my God!
At last I fell
prey to a
man's lust

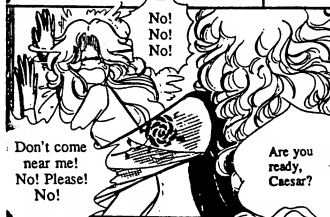


Don't worry.
I don't find
pleasure in
a defenseless
man.



Ah,
you
finally
woke
up.

L...
Lord
Gloria!



No!
No!
No!

Don't come
near me!
No! Please!
No!

Are you
ready,
Caesar?



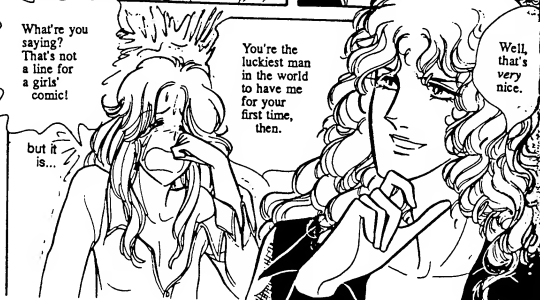
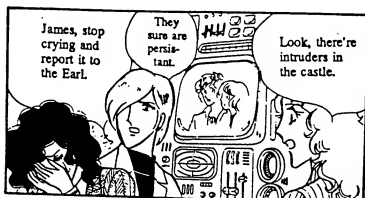
However,
since
you're
awake now
we can...

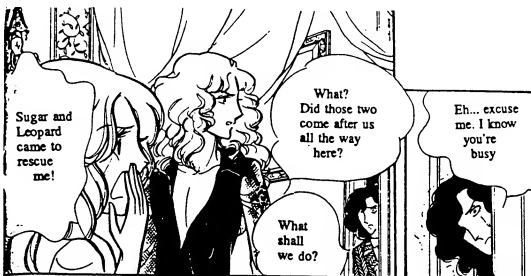


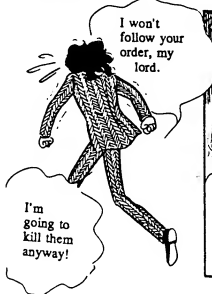
Leopard!
Caesar's

Help me!
Sugar!
Leopard!
xxxx

Oh no!!





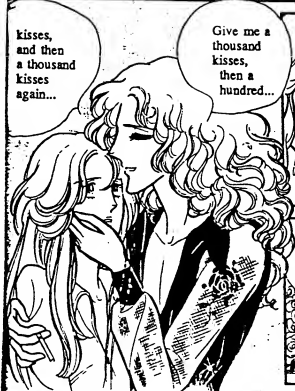




kisses,
and then
a thousand
kisses
again...

Give me a
thousand
kisses,
then a
hundred...

Come
over
here.



I'll teach
you how
to kiss...

Sit down
and relax.



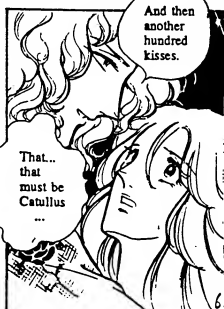
Aa...

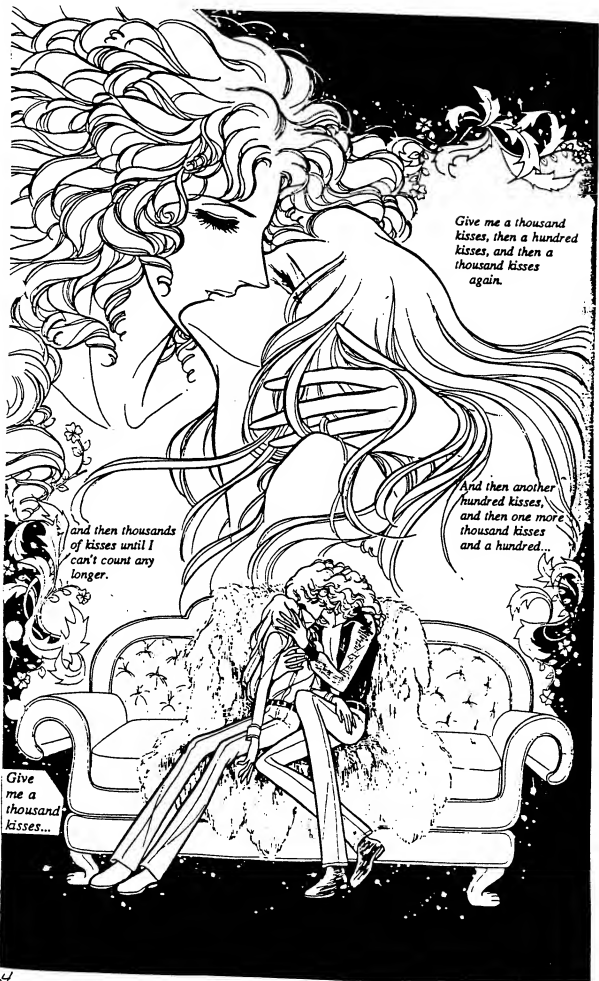
Shut
up...



And then
another
hundred
kisses.

That...
that
must be
Catullus
...





Give me a thousand
kisses, then a hundred
kisses, and then a
thousand kisses
again.

and then thousands
of kisses until I
can't count any
longer.

And then another
hundred kisses,
and then one more
thousand kisses
and a hundred...

Give
me a
thousand
kisses...



Caesar!



Yeh,
better
hurry.

Let's
find him
as soon as
possible.



Something
really bad
must have
happened
to him!

Caesar's
consciousness
flashed and
went blank.
It's never
happened
before.



are you gone
already? We
only kissed
three times.

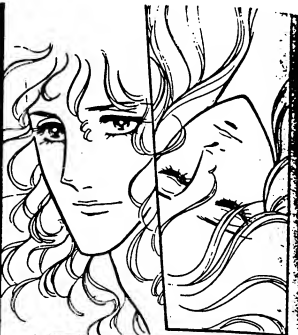
Caesar,
Caesar,



Caesar...
you are
very...



*I guess
I'm going
soft,
letting
him go,
and after
only three
kisses.*



*Go home,
Caesar,
to your
friends.*

James is
chasing the
two kids madly.

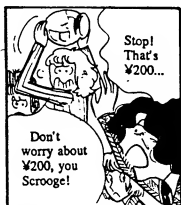
bang

Then,
he disobeyed
my order!

What's
that noise?
It's a
gun!

Get ready for a
launch, everyone.
We're leaving
the island.

Yes,
sir.





Very impressive, I'd say, but disobedience to an order is punished severely.

Aren't you impressed, my lord?

I'm not just a Casio-Mini puncher.

M'lord!

boo
hoo
hoo

as punishment, turn in a 600-page estimate by tomorrow.

Mr. James,

I'm glad you two are not harmed.

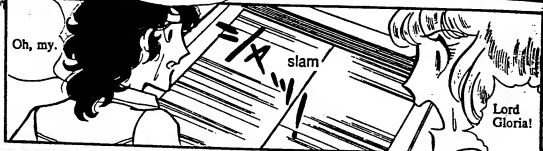
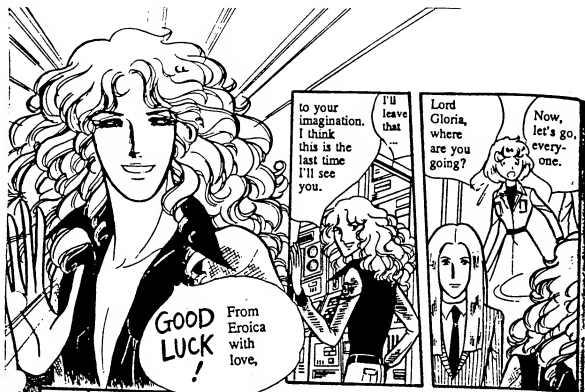
Lord Gloria, where is Caesar?

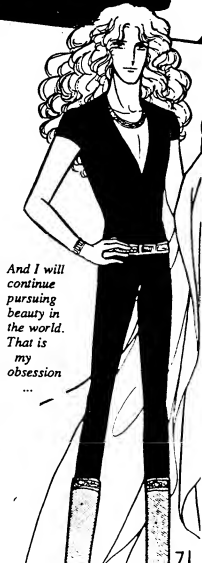
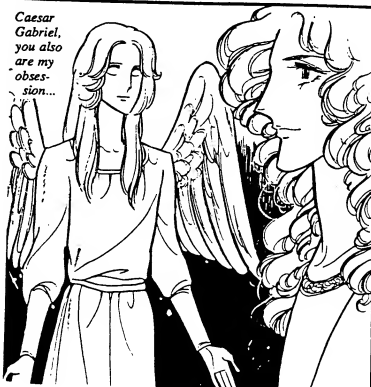
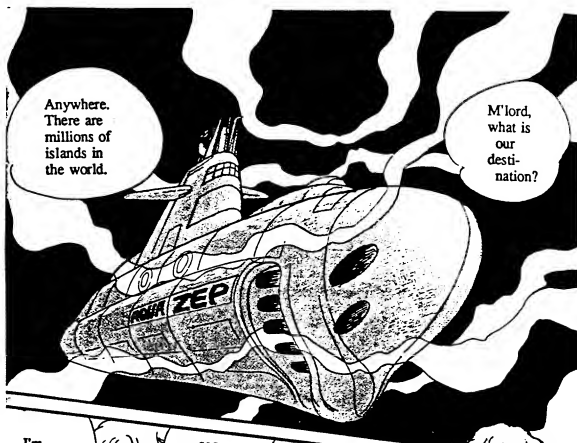
Please excuse my men's misbehavior.

And, you may have all the art pieces here as a gift for your friendship.

Do whatever you wish with them.

I'm returning him to you, though much to my regret.







I will
wait, Caesar,
with much
love...



Farewell until
we meet again.
When the time
comes, give me
a thousand
kisses.

You must,
you know...



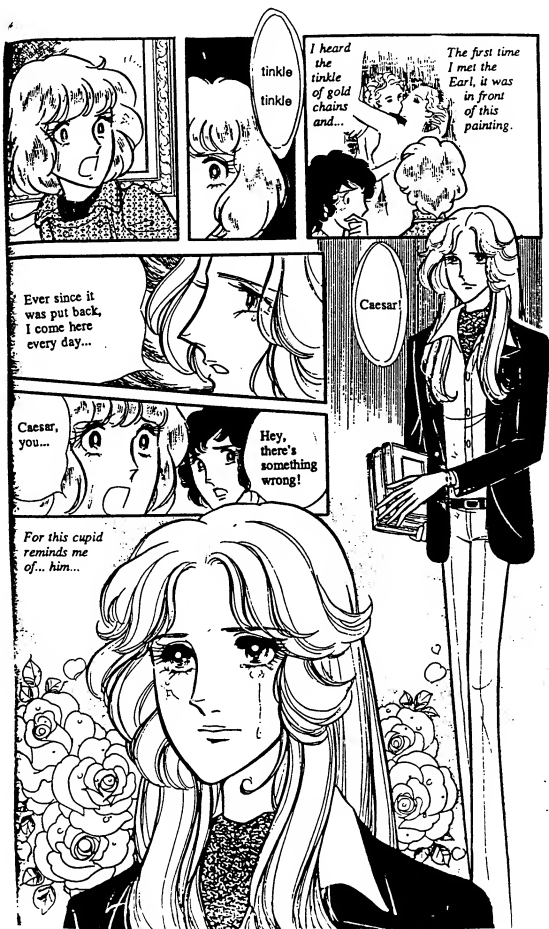
Including
my favorite
Bonzino.

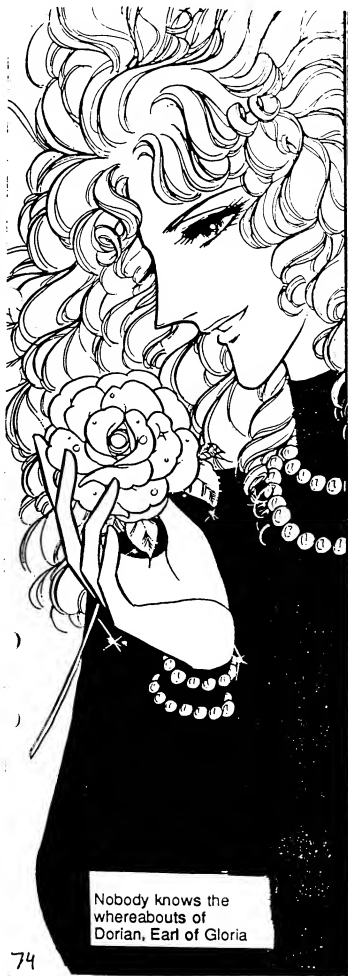
All the stolen
paintings have
come back to
the third
gallery.



Don't be
embarrassed.
Come on.

Sugar,
I think
I'll wait
here.





Nobody knows the whereabouts of Dorian, Earl of Gloria



Fell in love with him, didn't you...

FROM EROICA WITH LOVE

No. 2

by Yasuko Aoike

Trans. Kx.

エロイカより愛をこめて

NO. 2



Bonn,
West Germany

NATO
Head-
quarters
for West
Germany

Good
luck,
Major.

All right,
Chief,
I'll be
off, then.

Intelligence
Office

click

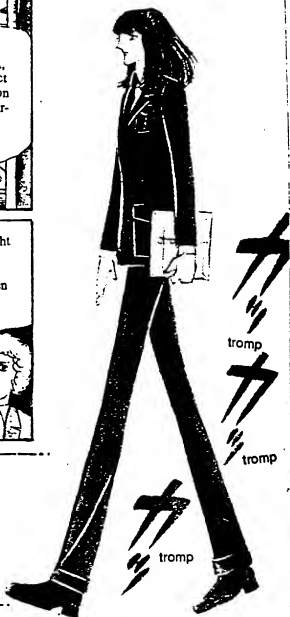
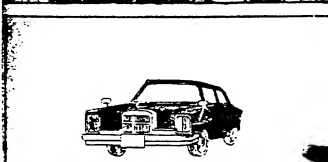
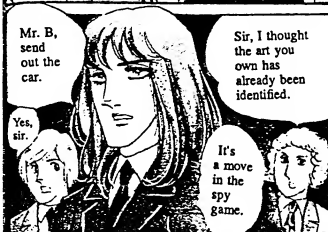
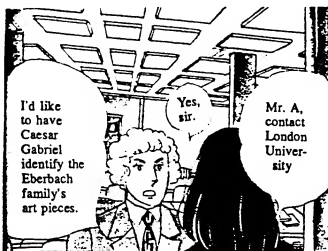
Major
Eberbach
is always
wonderful

Yes, he's
the best
intelligence
officer
we've got.

He's a very
competent
officer in
spite of his
aristocratic
background.

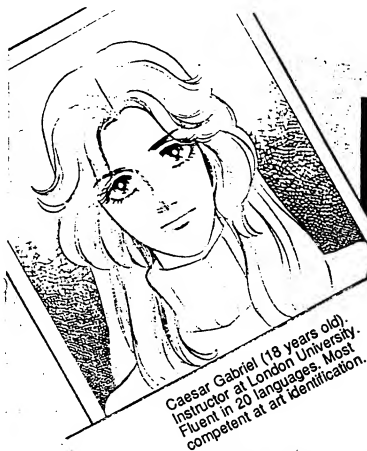
He's known as
"Iron Klaus"
by agents on the
Eastern side.
He's much feared
there, you see.

I, Major
Klaus Heinz
von dem Eberbach,
will complete
the mission.



Major Eberbach,
fly to London
immediately and
check this man out.





Caesar Gabriel (18 years old).
Instructor at London University.
Fluent in 20 languages. Most
competent at art identification.

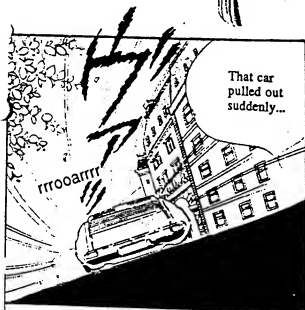
According to the
report from John
Drake, a British
agent, he may
possess what is
popularly known as
"extrasensory
perception."

Your mission is
to find out the
truth about him,
and if you note
any dangerous
tendencies in his
abilities, you are
to take appropriate
action.

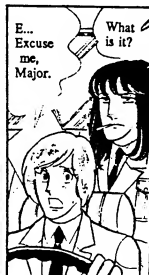
We needn't
be edgy about
such a kid,
but an order
is an order.



A wimpy
looking
man.



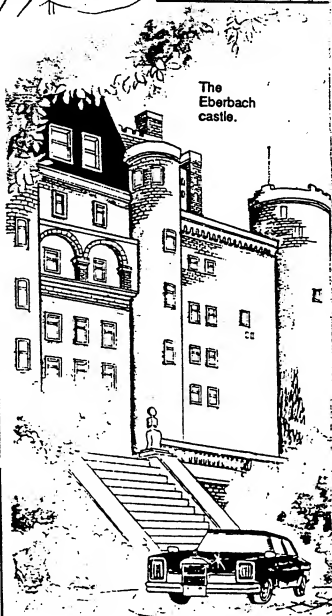
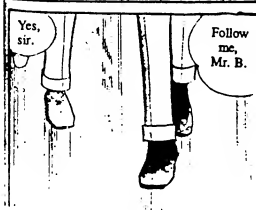
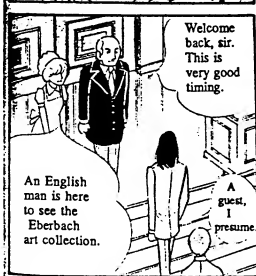
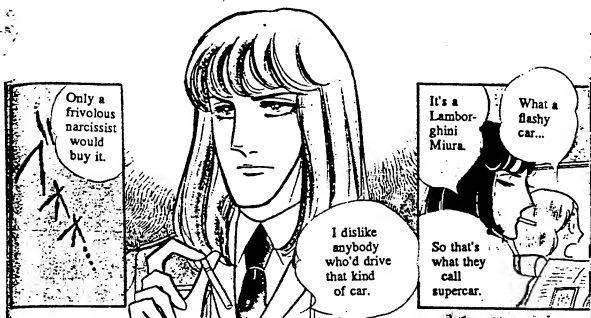
That car
pulled out
suddenly...

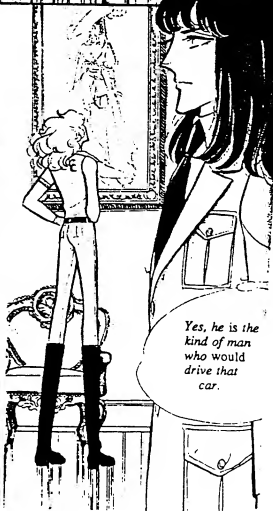
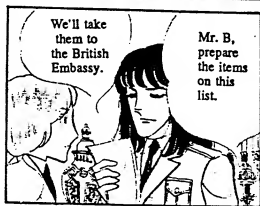


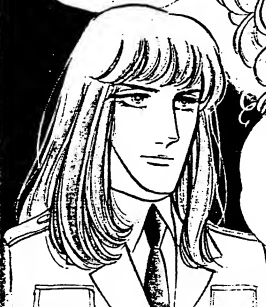
E...
Excuse
me,
Major.

What
is it?


screeeech







I am Dorian
Red Gloria,
Earl of Gloria.
How do you do?



Klaus Heinz
von dem Eberbach.
I am the present
head of the
Eberbach family,
a German branch
of the Hapsburgs.



Well, I
do not
like it.

Huh! So you
refuse to
shake hands
with me?



Well, it's
nice meeting
you, Klaus
Heinz...

Just
call
me
"Major."

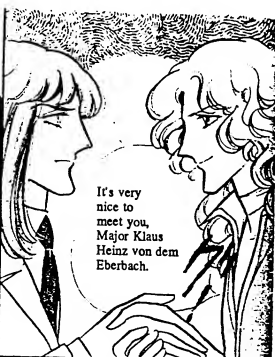


GRAB



Pardon
me.

You...



It's very
nice to
meet you,
Major Klaus
Heinz von dem
Eberbach.



It's not
I who
collected
it.

Your
collection
is
great.



I'm not surprised
this is called
one of the best
collections in
West Germany.

[Trans-
lator's
note:
Yes,
he is,
and
Yes,
he does]

Don't you
think he
looks like
you?

THE MAN WEARS
TYRIAN PURPLE

The man
dressed
in purple?
Tyrian
Persimmon?
Is he
your
ancestor?



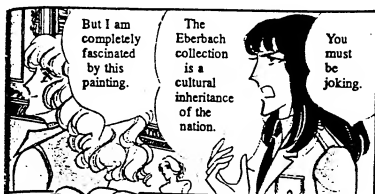
I like
this
painting
espe-
cially.

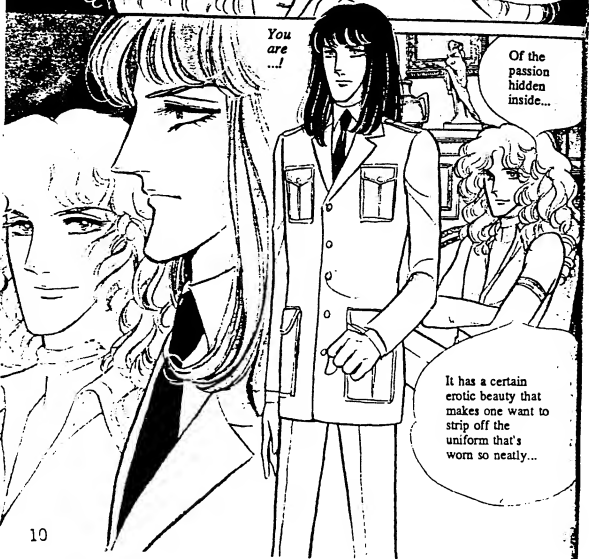
Be quiet.
I'm busy.

Major
...

I want
this
painting.

It really
appeals
to me.
Very
beautiful.







AND,
I like
what I
like, as
well.

I don't
care what
kind of
taste you
might
have,

I'm sorry,
but I don't
have any wish
for you to
strip off my
uniform.

And I
always get
what I like.

but I
dislike
what I
dislike!

Don't worry.
I don't care
for a man
who's like
wire rope.

even for
a thousand
million
marks!

Cut it out!
Everything here
is mine, and I
will never give
anything to a
man like you,

I LIKE
THIS
PAINTING!

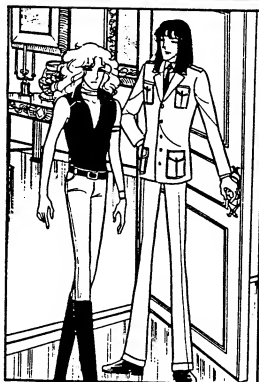
NEVER!

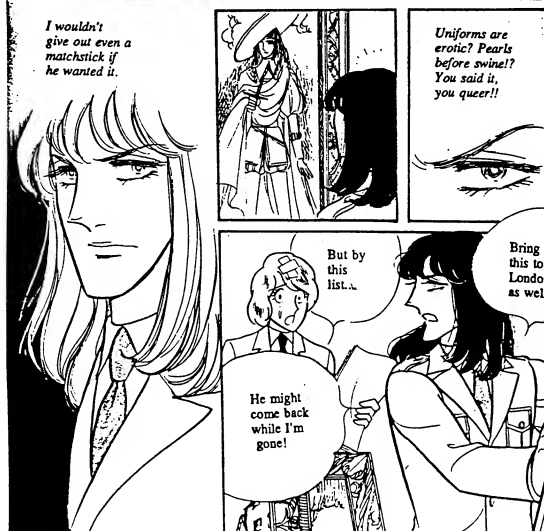
This
painting is
worthless
to you. It's
a pearl
before a
swine!

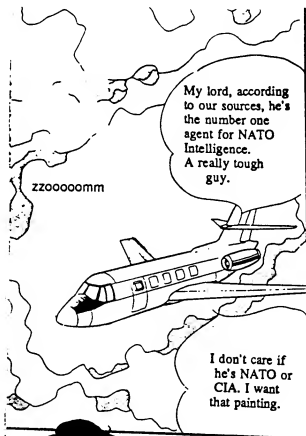
My principle
is to get what
I like,
no matter who
the owner is,

and to
get it
cheaply
as well.

a staring contest
(the first of many)



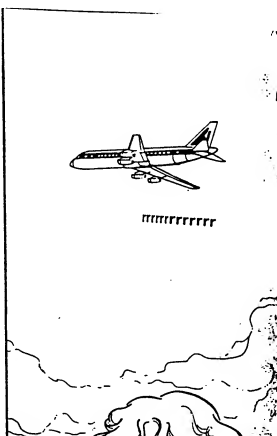




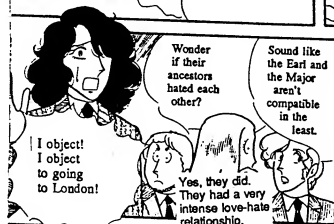
My lord, according to our sources, he's the number one agent for NATO Intelligence. A really tough guy.

zzooooommm

I don't care if he's NATO or CIA. I want that painting.



oooooooooooo



I object! I object to going to London!

Wonder if their ancestors hated each other?

Sound like the Earl and the Major aren't compatible in the least.

Yes, they did. They had a very intense love-hate relationship.



But you are a monetarist.

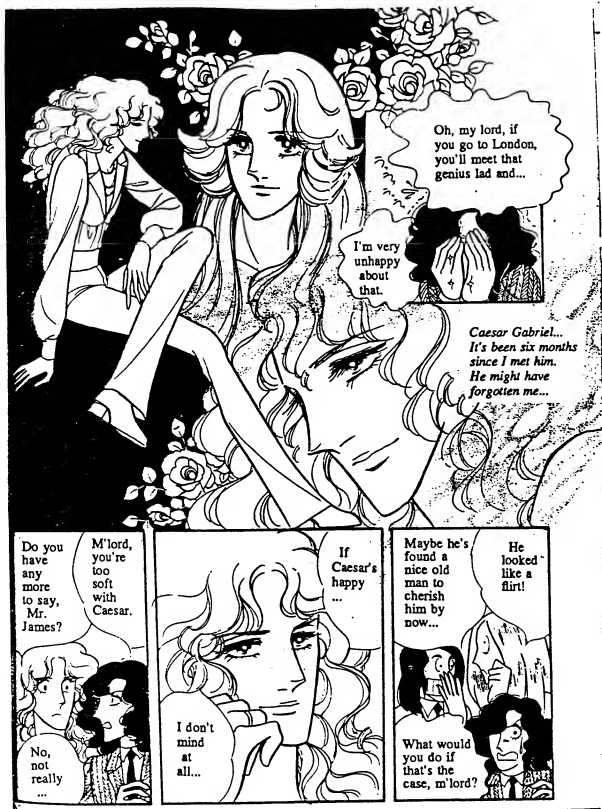
I'm not a monetarist.

Hey, it's a painting worth a tank!

Yes, I am.

I will get that painting, AND I will break that proud German nose of his!

He is the kind of man I detest. His value system is completely opposite to mine.



And so the British-German war began.

London
University

Each unit
has to be
neutralized.

In the multi-vector
model, each biological
unit has n targets
and...

The
probability
of n targets
being hit is...

It's been six months
since the Earl went
away... Where is
he now and what
is he up to,

It's too early
to worry about
that. We have
to check his
e.s.p. first.

It would
be very
dangerous
if that
brain goes
to the other
side, wouldn't
it?

I
wonder...

they are in
Scotland for
summer
vacation.

Normally, he is
with his friends,
Leopard Solid
and Sugar Plum,
but right now



'S not
a time to
chitchat,
Caesar!
Something's
up!



Hi,
you two,
how's
Scotland?



Caesar,
Caesar,



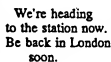
This
is
Sugar.



Leopard,
too.



What's
wrong?



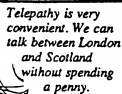
We're heading
to the station now.
Be back in London
soon.



Couldn't I ever
see him again?
I miss him.
I can't erase
him from my
mind...



I just had
a premonition
that you are
in danger. I'm
worried about
you.



Telepathy is very
convenient. We can
talk between London
and Scotland
without spending
a penny.



But
what
will
become
of me,
anyway?



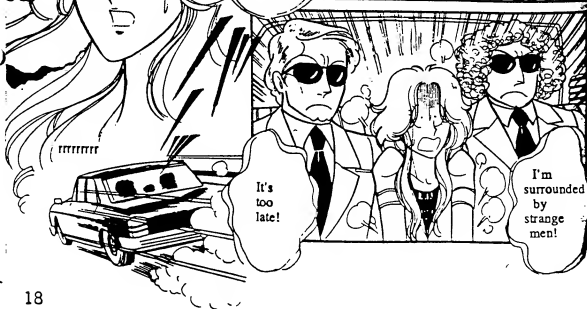
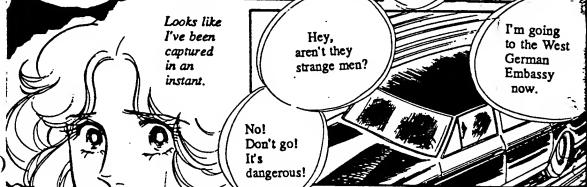
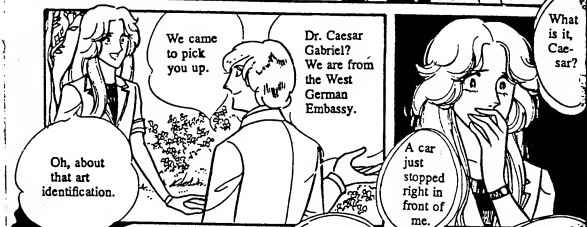
Okay.

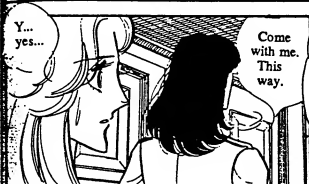


Watch out,
Caesar.
Don't go
off with
strange
men.



Wait 'til
we get
there,
okay?

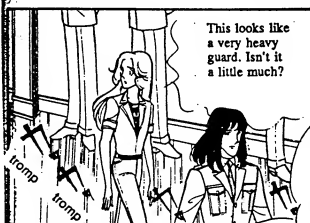




Y...
yes...

Come
with me.
This
way.

I am
Major
Klaus
Heinz
von dem
Eberbach.



This looks like
a very heavy
guard. Isn't it
a little much?

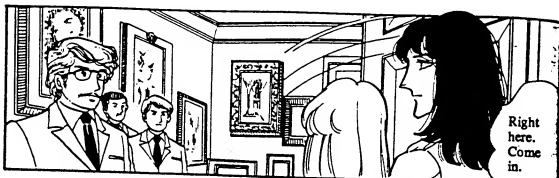
I'm also
the owner
of the art
pieces
to be
identified.

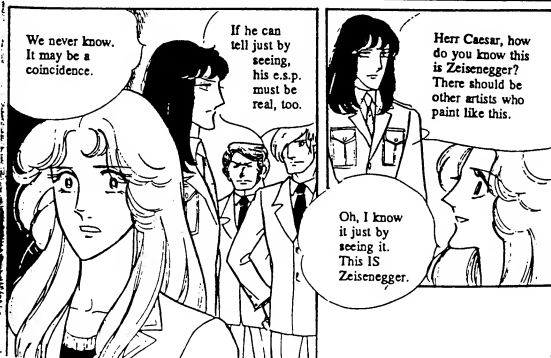
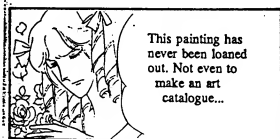
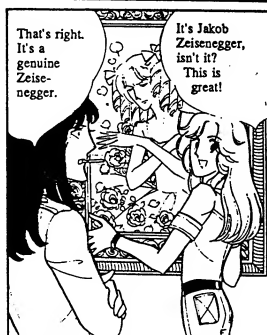
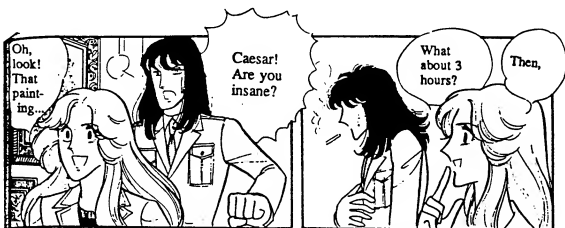


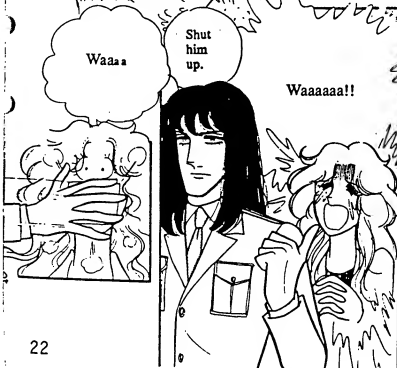
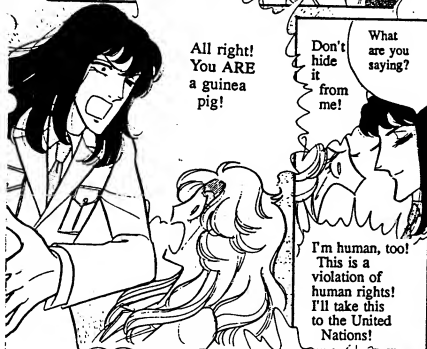
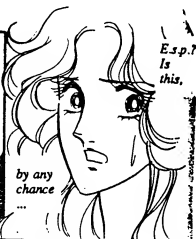
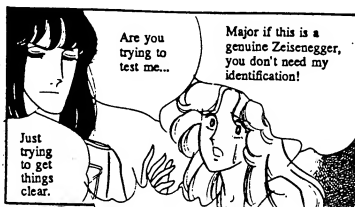
Guards
like
this
are
common-
place.

Each
piece in the
Eberbach
collection is
important to our
national culture.













Nobody but that curly-haired son-of-a-bitch would do this kind of foppish thing!

Yes, sir.

Bring out the file on Eroica!

From Eroica with love to my dear Major: I am going to take your "cultural inheritance of the nation" tonight. Watch out. Eroica

How conceited of him to have visited me in broad daylight, being wanted by the law and everything!

Art theft is out of my territory.

I hate you even more! I wouldn't give out even a burnt matchstick if you wanted it!

And of all things, how dare he come after MY things!

but I didn't know Eroica was this big a thief!

The Earl!

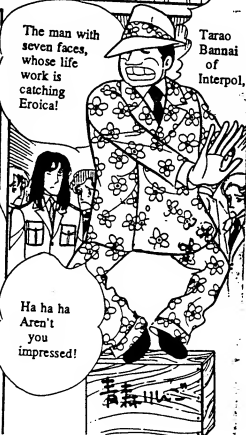
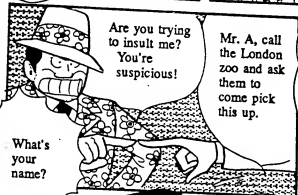
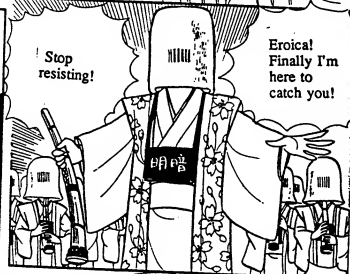
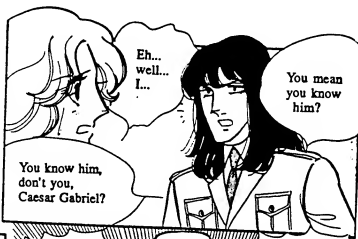
What is it? Is it a Communist attack?

It's an emergency! Put the heaviest guard around this Embassy!

He's coming here?

No, Eroica's coming to steal our national art!

A traditional tofu vendor in Japan blows on a certain kind of wind instrument to announce his arrival.



Natto is a sticky
soy-bean product.

You're the mysterious
good-looking lad
always around when
Eroica comes out,
Caesar what's-his-
name.

What!
You!

I will
catch
Eroica.

Be it NATO
or natto,
nothing can
beat my
persistence.

You're
suspicious!
You're
under
arrest!

Ha
ha
ha
ha

Don't be an
ass, Interpol
isn't scared
of a missile!

Would you like to
have a missile
drilled in your skull,
Herr Tarao Bannai?

Now,
get
lost.

Interpol
has no
business
here.

Ha
ha
ha
ha.

You NATO stand
in my way? Hey,
what's-his-von-face,
can't you see my
two guns?

Eh...
well...

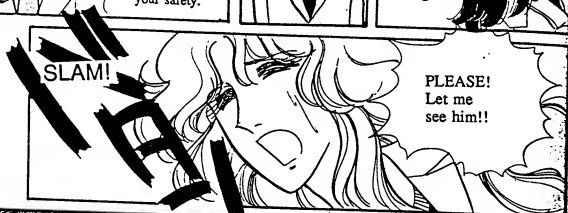
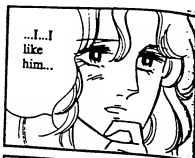
Caesar, what kind
of acquaintance
do you have with
the Earl?

What
was
that?

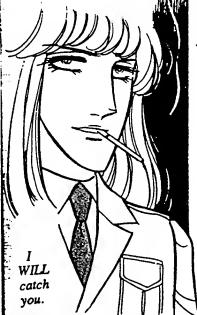
Everybody!
Out!!
Hurry!

Are you
part of
Eroica too?

An
idiot.



*Nobody's ever survived
once he's hated by M.E.
That's your mistake,
Earl of Gloria.*

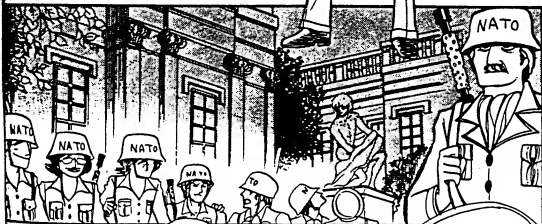
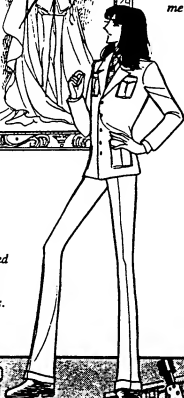


*I
WILL
catch
you.*



*If you wanted the
painting that badly,
you should've sneaked
in, instead of sending
me that foppish letter.*

*I hate
that
conceited
narcis-
sism
of yours.*

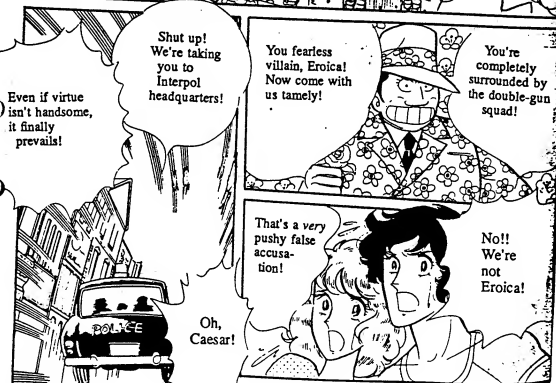
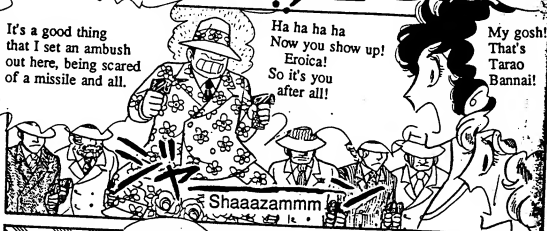
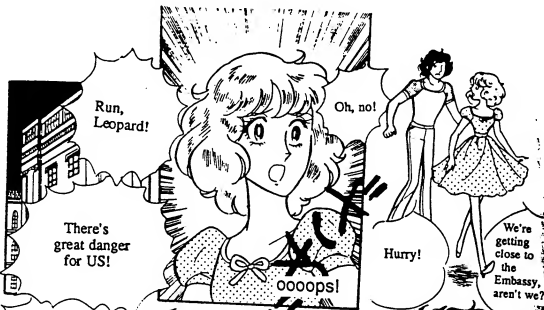


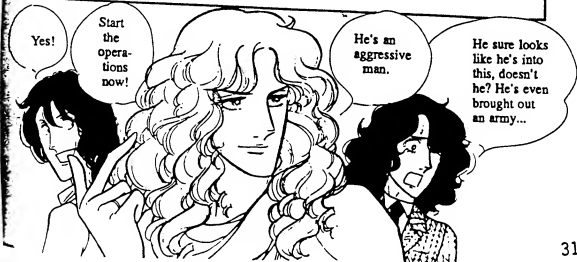
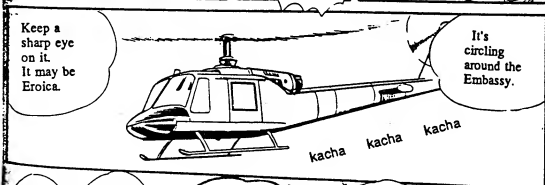
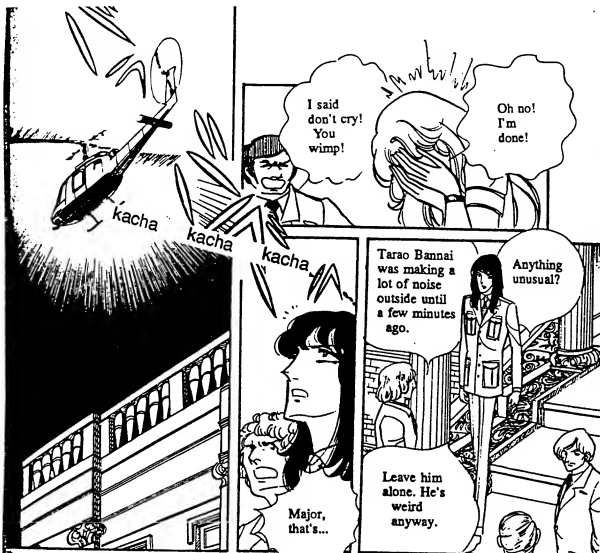
*Don't
cry, you
wimp!*

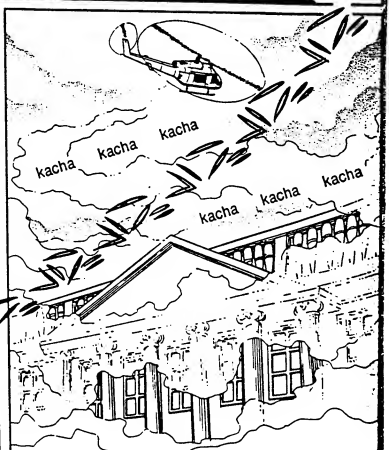
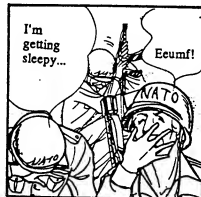
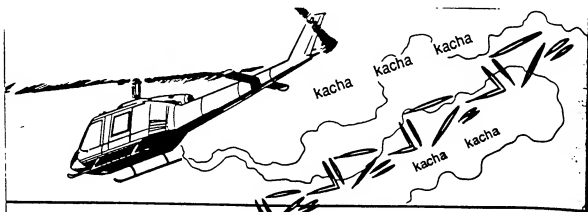
*Major
Eberbach
may catch
the Earl!*

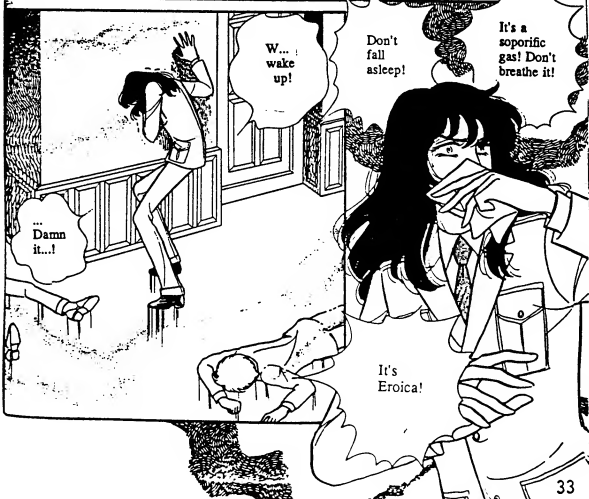
*Caesar! We're
in London.
We're heading
to the Embassy
right now.*


*Hurry!! Leopard!
Sugar! Things are
getting worse!!*











I think you're the
only person awake around
here, Major Klaus Heinz
von dem Eberbach.



The Earl!
You.....!!

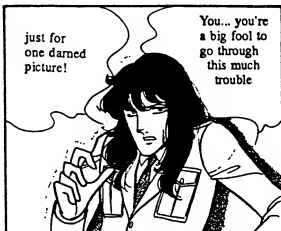


I told you,
I get what I
want no matter
what. That's my
philosophy...

I came to
pick up that
painting
as I
promised.



Whatever.
I like foolish things.



You... you're a big fool to go through this much trouble



Sh...shut up!
Don't insult me...
You...



you...



Now, now, be quiet and go to sleep. You're pushing your limits.





Can you believe there's a man who only thinks of a mass of iron when he looks at this painting, Mr. James?

Eroica's castle

I only think of a mass of money.

Beautiful... Very romantic as well.



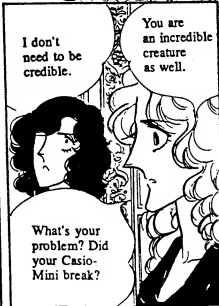
Oh, that. Don't worry about it.

I just wanted to know how the lad is doing.



Because, my lord...

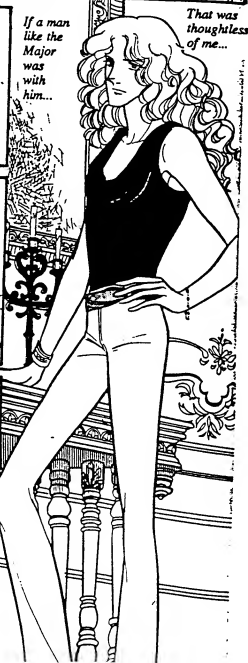
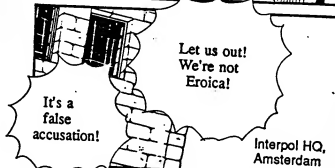
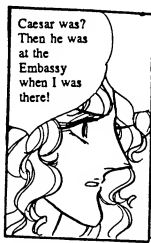
you sent a man to check on Caesar at the university...

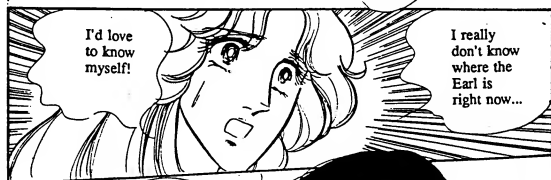
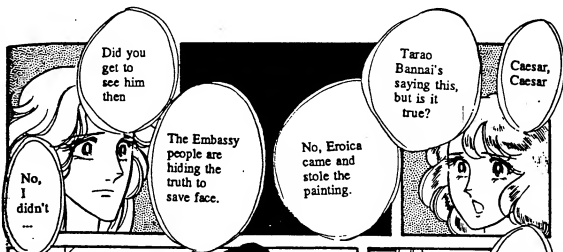


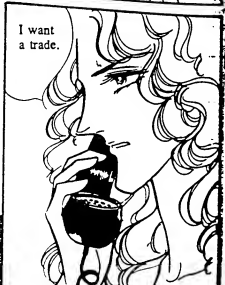
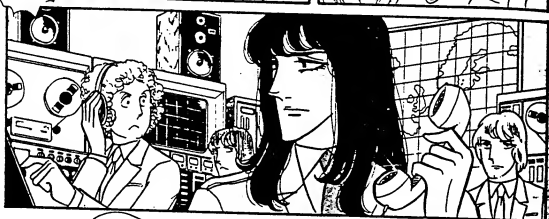
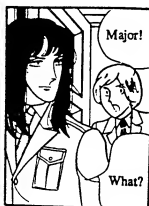
I don't need to be credible.

What's your problem? Did your Casio-Mini break?

You are an incredible creature as well.











which of course is what
the author wanted...

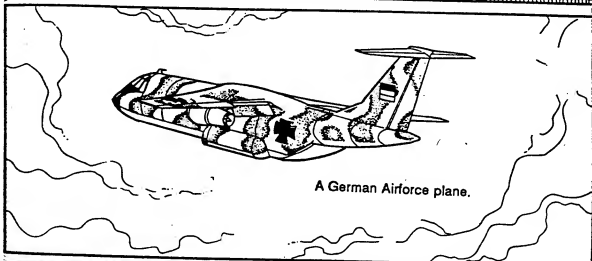
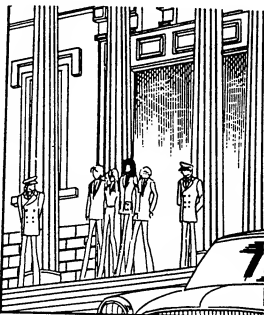


All right.
We will
start the
operation
now.



The Major
and the
others are
taking
off.

This is
Embassy
stake-
out.



A German Airforce plane.



We won't
be able to
relax even
when we
get to
Bonn.

Guess
they're
professional
too.



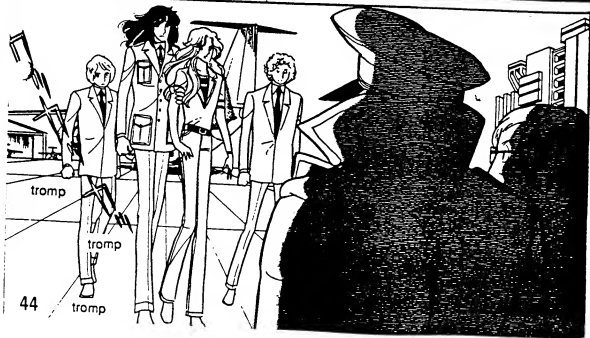
We've got a report
from London.
Says the Earl's
place is empty.

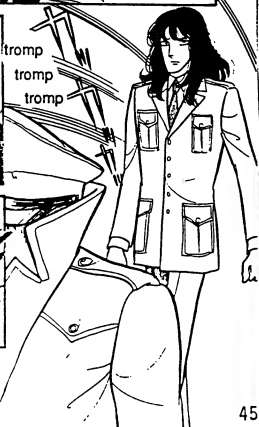
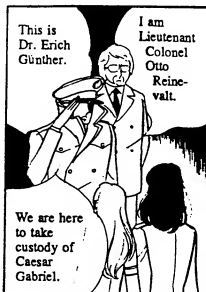
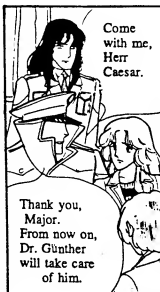
So they
left
right
away
as well.

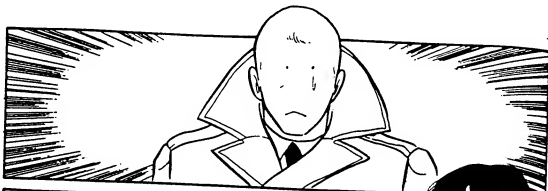


Blame
it on
my
superiors.

I'm just
fulfilling
my mission.







A man should not
worry about his
hair!

But,
but...

...my
toupee
this
morning.

I... I
didn't
have time to
put on

They're
Eroica's
men!

He confused
me. If he
were my subor-
dinate,

run

run

run

I AM
Lieutenant
Colonel
Reinevalt
!!

Wait!!
Those
two are
fake!!

He'd have
been sent
to
Alaska
by now.



Major,
let ME
handle
this!



What?



Ow!

You!
You dare to
impersonate
ME!?

PUNCH

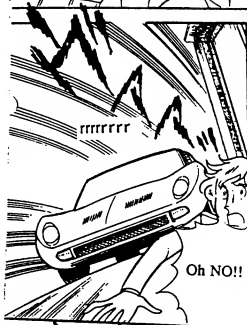
No!
I'm real!

Lord
Gloria!

Come on,
Caesar!!



Goddammit!



Oh NO!!

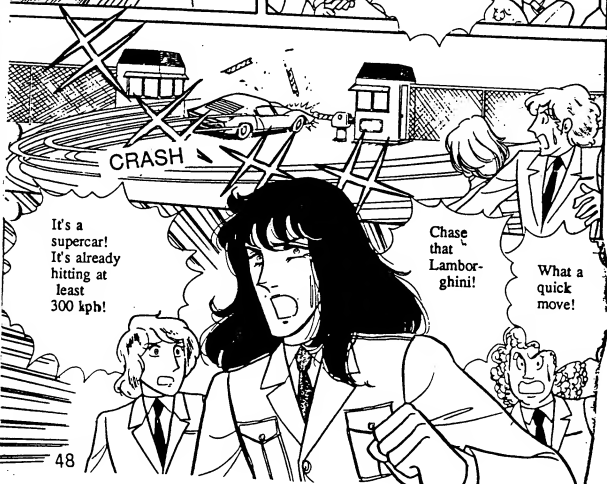


Damn
that
bugger!

Don't let
him go!



Get him!



It's a
supercar!
It's already
hitting at
least
300 kph!

Chase
that
Lambor-
ghini!

What a
quick
move!



If your philosophy is to get what you want under any circumstances, my philosophy is to get my enemy under any circumstances. I'll follow you, no matter where, Earl of Gloria!



Wanna go to Alaska!

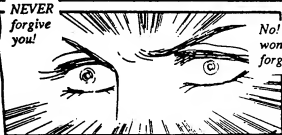
Shut up!

No, sir!

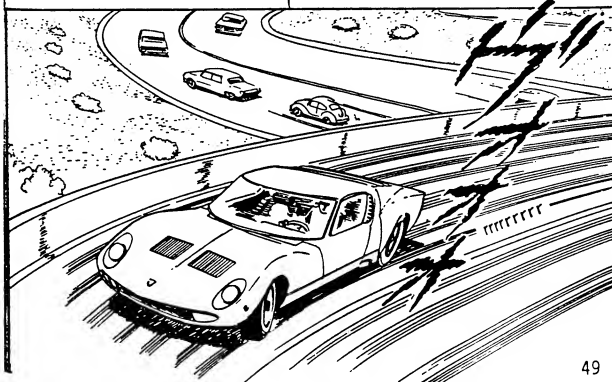
Earl of Gloria, not just once, but twice!! You...!!

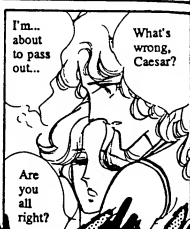
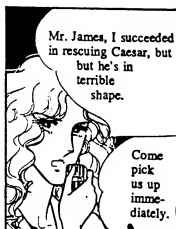
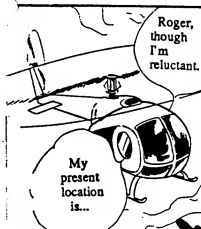
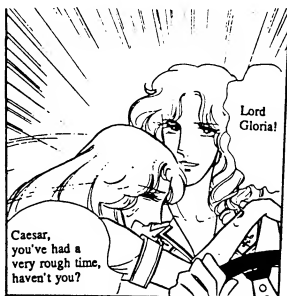


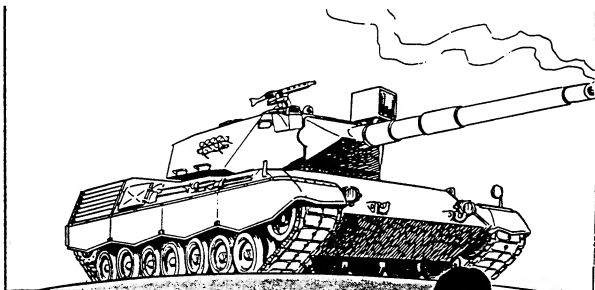
I will NEVER forgive you!



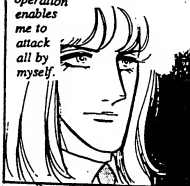
No! I won't forgive!



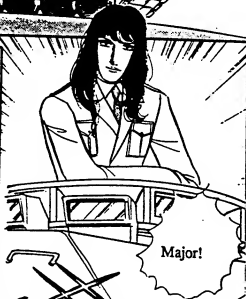




*This is the Leopard B-1,
a newly developed model.
Its completely automatic
operation
enables
me to
attack
all by
myself.*



*He actually
brought out
that
monster!?*

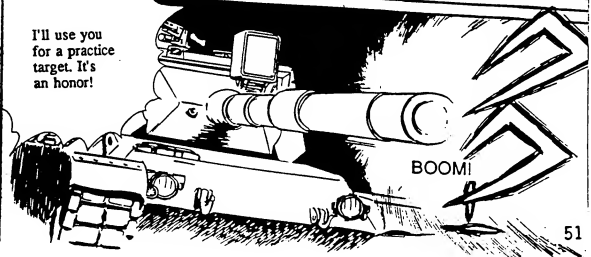


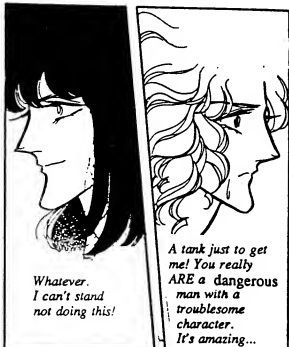
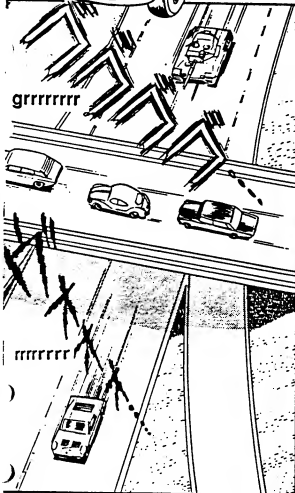
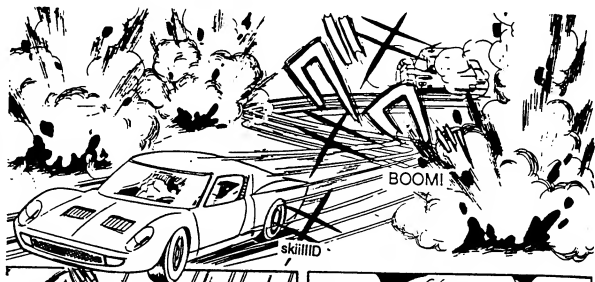
Major!

Get the
heck
away
from him!

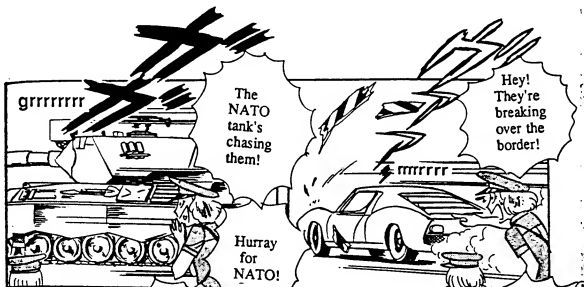


I'll use you
for a practice
target. It's
an honor!





Tarao Bannai is reading "Viva Princess,"
the girls' comic magazine in which
Eroica first appeared.



The NATO tank's chasing them!

Hey! They're breaking over the border!

Hurray for NATO!

Oh, my lord, please don't die! Your life insurance is cheap...

Hurry! To the North Sea!

Caesar's completely worn out, over!

Past the Autobahn to the North Sea!

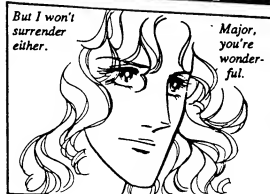
M'lord, are you all right? Are you alive?

Where are you NOW?



You're doing pretty well, Earl of Gloria.

So you're escaping into the North Sea?

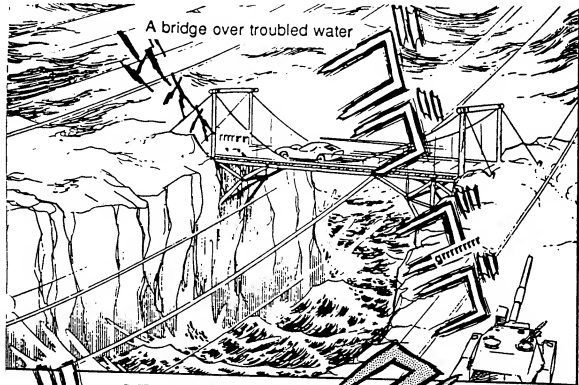


But I won't surrender either.

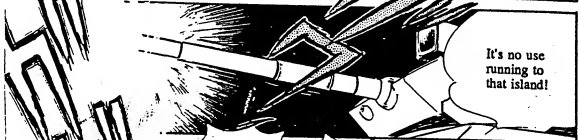
Major, you're wonderful.



A bridge over troubled water

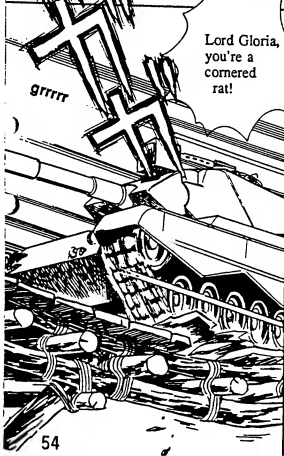


It's no use
running to
that island!

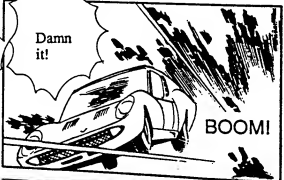


Lord Gloria,
you're a
cornered
rat!

Damn
it!



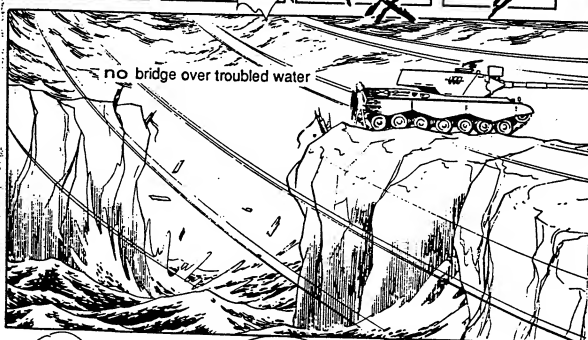
BOOM!



Ow!!

He
got
me!!







Don't touch my Leopard!



I hate to see blood.

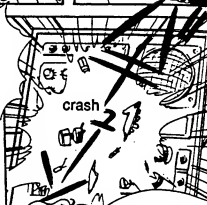


Are you trying to kill me?



Now you can't contact your men.

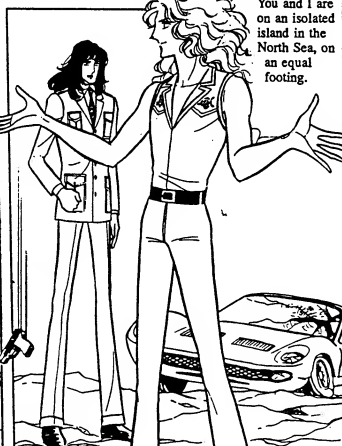
You jerk! You broke my wireless!



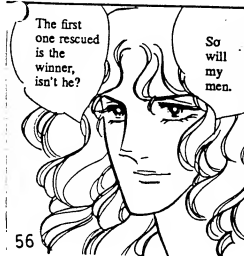
crash



Even without the radio, my subordinates will find where I am and they'll be here.

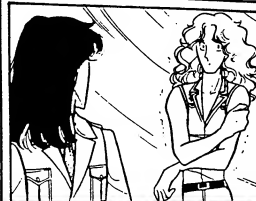
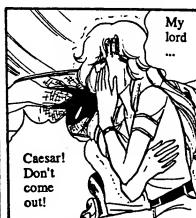
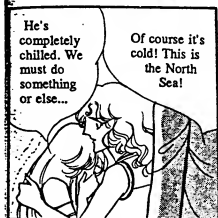
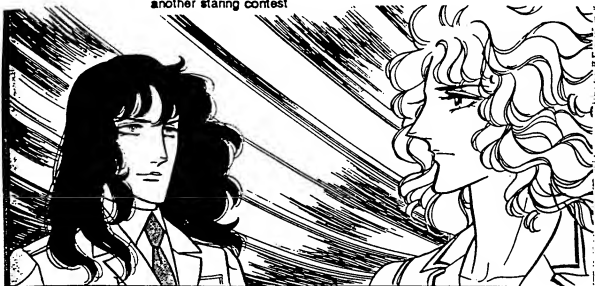


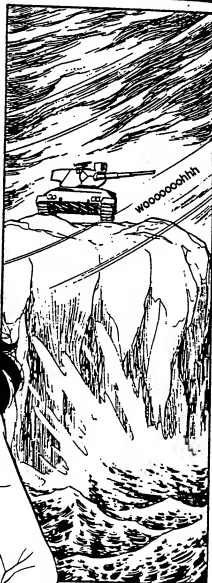
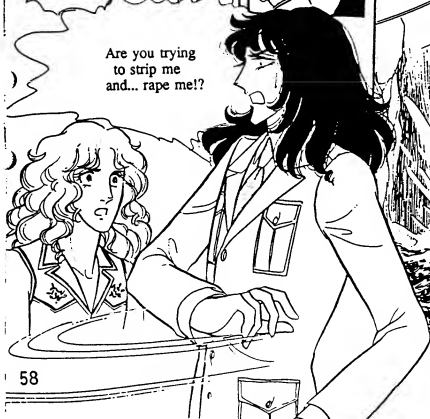
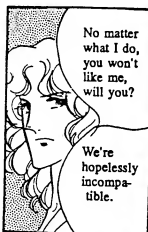
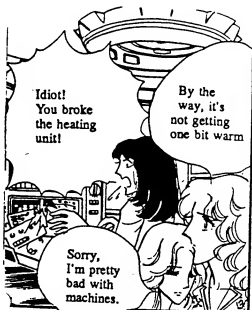
You and I are on an isolated island in the North Sea, on an equal footing.

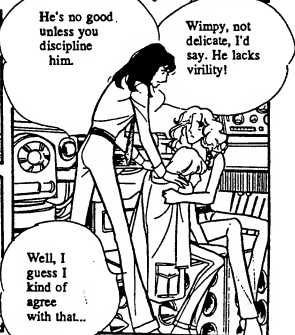
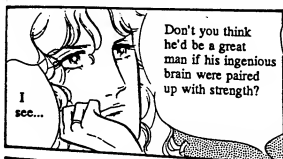
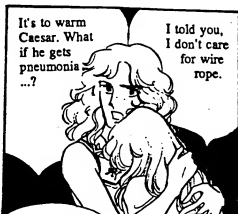
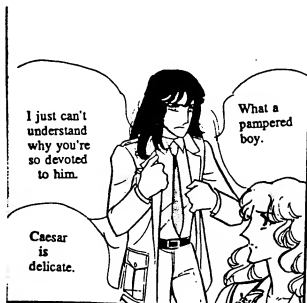


The first one rescued is the winner, isn't he?

So will my men.









Of course it is.
Three men holding
onto one another
in a tiny tank?



Even I feel
funny when
it's quiet.

Hey, say
something.
It's getting
uncomfortable.



I don't like
that kind of
stuff. Better
something
healthy and
cheery.



Shall I
sing? A
love ballad
maybe?

Try a
serious
one.



Avoid
indecent
subjects.



I'll be
good and
bear it,
so go
ahead.

You won't
like it,
though.

Of
course
not.

What a fussy
man you are.
Why don't you
sing one you
like.



No, that'd
be a wet
blanket.

Should
I try the
German
Anthem?

Under thunder, in snowstorms,
under the smiling sun,
in the scorching daylight
and in the freezing nights...

Okay,
here
goes.

'S a German
tank-force
song during
the Second
World War.

It's the song
they often play
in war movies,
isn't it? I
think it's from
*The Bālgū
Operation*

Rolling against
high breeze...

Even though our faces are
smeared with sand and dust,
our spirits remain high and sharp.
As my tank rolls on...

My father was
a tank commander
and he used to
sing it all the
time.

*He sure
is happy
doing it.*

You really
LIKE a
mass of iron,
don't you?

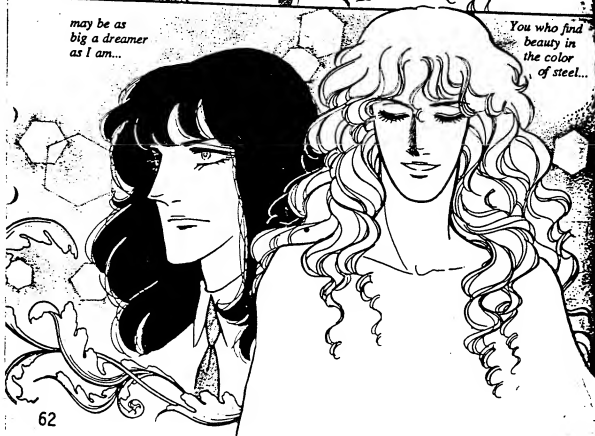
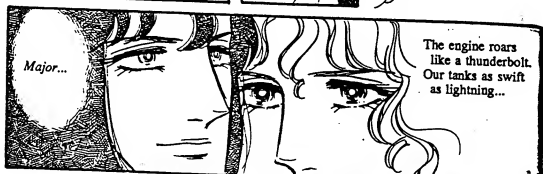
Unfortunately,
this is the
only kind of
song I know.

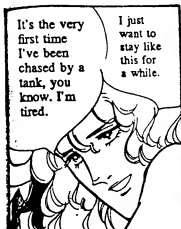
Yeh, I do.

The color
of highly
polished
steel is
also a very
beautiful
thing,
you know.

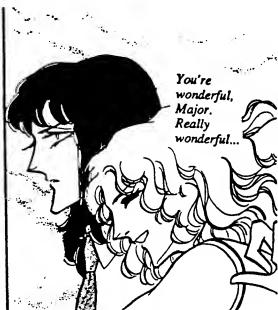
You told me
you like
beautiful
things...

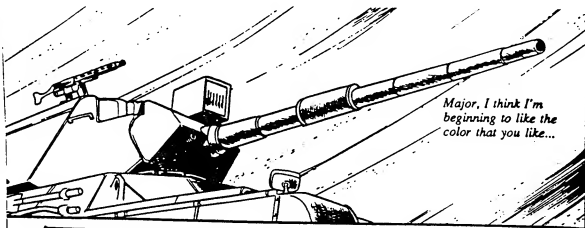
Well,
my
lord...





I just want to stay like this for a while.

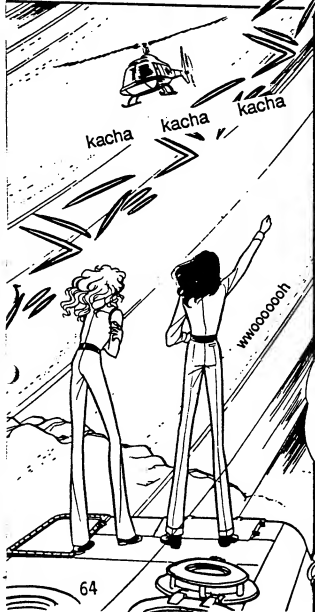




Major, I think I'm
beginning to like the
color that you like...



That color
of steel...



Rescue!
Finally!

A
copter's
coming!



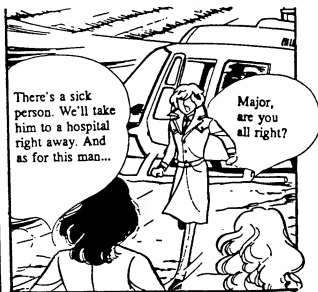
Guess I
beat you,
your
lordship.

That
sound
is my
military
copter.



My men
will come
eventually.

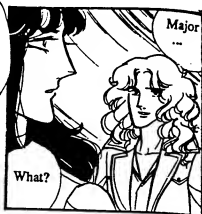
Guess
so.





I think
I like
it.

I think
a tank is
a really
nice thing
too,
don't I.



Major

What?



Did you forget, Major?
I AM a very fanciful man...



But I
don't
think
anybody
fancies
to.

Then, guard
it well so
nobody can
steal it.





The Earl!
Where's Lord Gloria!



...uh...
I was...



Don't be ridiculous!

Please! Let's go back to where we were! The Earl is leaving!

He's staying on that island with my tank...

Might the Earl have left me while I'm unconscious, again...?



Maybe he would...!

GET BACK TO THAT ISLAND!!!

Although I don't think... But...!





My
Leopard's
in danger!

My
tank!

He did it!!
His followers
must have
arrived!!

Major! It's not
here! There's no
sign of the tank
NOR the Earl!

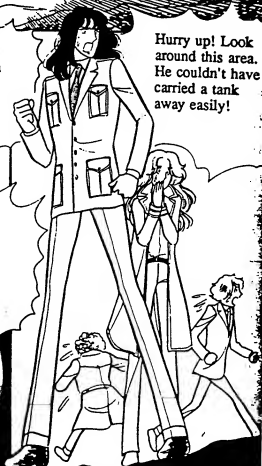


Gimme
those!

Major,
There's a
tanker,
far out!

Hurry up! Look
around this area.
He couldn't have
carried a tank
away easily!

The Earl!
He took my
tank on a
tanker!





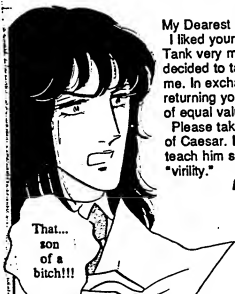
...
the
Earl
...

No way, sir!
We won't have enough
fuel to get back
to the base!



Hurry! Chase
that with our
helicopter!

Idiot!



That...
son
of a
bitch!!!

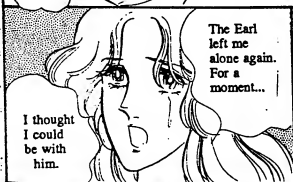
My Dearest Major:
I liked your Leopard
Tank very much so I
decided to take it with
me. In exchange, I'm
returning your painting
of equal value.
Please take good care
of Caesar. I wish you'd
teach him some of your
"virility."

Eroica



Major!
This painting
was left on
the island.

That's
MY
picture
that he
stole!!

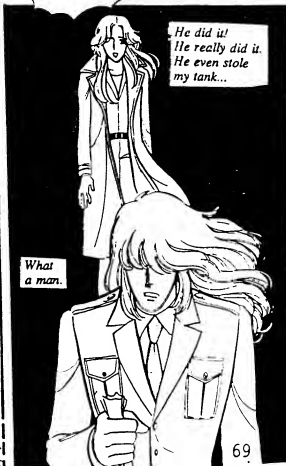


The Earl
left me
alone again.
For a
moment...

I thought
I could
be with
him.



You're quite
a man, you
son of a bitch.
But I won't
stop here,
either!



He did it!
He really did it.
He even stole
my tank...

What
a man.

Be a good enemy. I'll definitely catch you. Til then, you just wait and see.

If your obsession or whatever you call it is to pursue beauty, my obsession could be hunting down a man like you.

GOOD LUCK!!

Damn it!!!

It reads: FROM EROICA WITH LOVE GOOD LUCK.

The tanker's sending a message.

Oh, Lord Gloria!

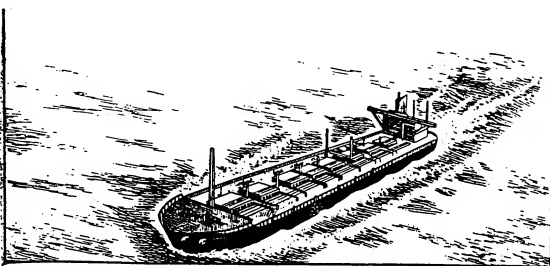
He even left this brat with me to take care of!

What's "good luck" for!

Shall it be "IDIOT GO TO HELL," then?

Send him a reply.

...No.



Don't you know how much it costs to transport this monster?

But how come you stole such unerotic stuff!

I thought your trademark was eroticism.

Major Eberbach is a trustworthy man. I believe him.

My lord, are you sure you can leave Caesar there?

It's something the Major loves so much. If you look at it closely, you can see the beauty he saw in it...

Mr. James, don't you understand the esthetics of steel?



Well, knowing you,
you, might attack
me with a missile
next time...

My dear Major
Klaus Heinz
von dem Eberbach...

Major, if we ever meet again,
why don't we have some drinks
together and sing some Tank
Force songs?



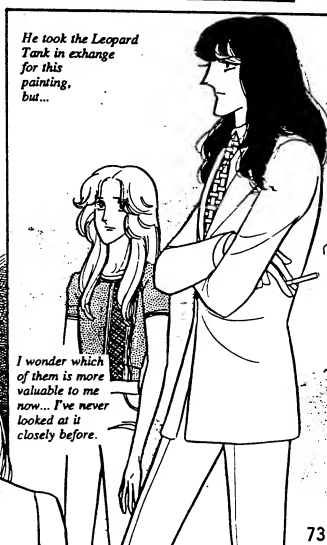
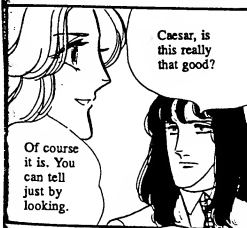
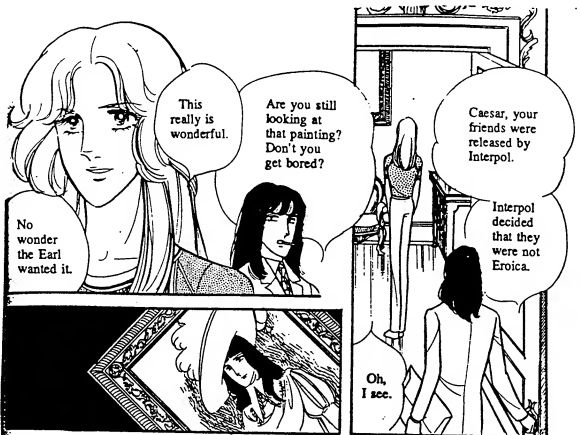
Eberbach
Castle

My superiors
might get mad
at this report,
on top of a
stolen tank,

but it
doesn't
matter
to me.

Report on Caesar Gabriel:
There is no evidence of
his possessing paranormal
ability. It is safe to
consider that his
outstanding performances
reflect that he is just
a genius.

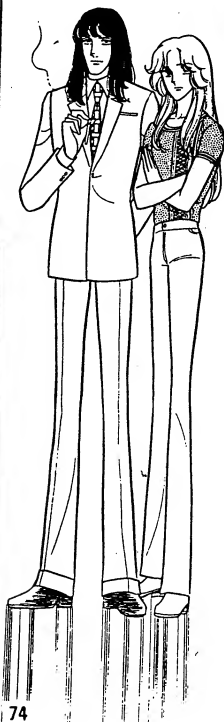


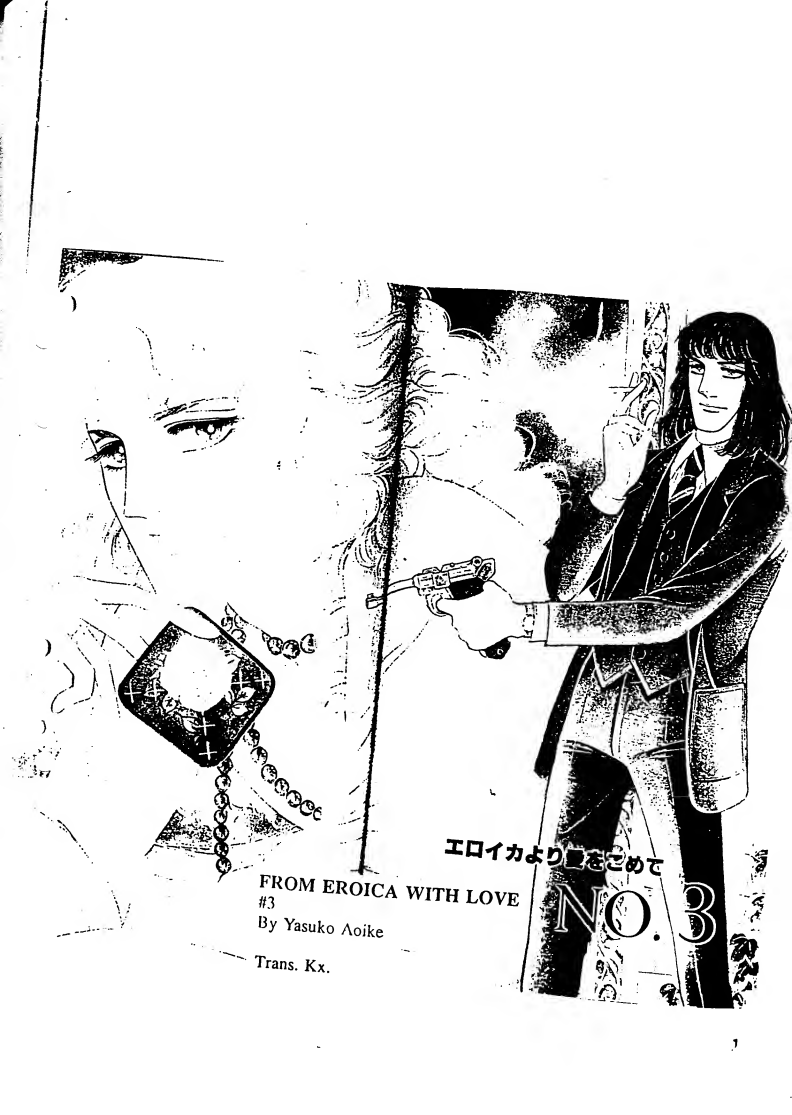




Nobody knows
the whereabouts
of Dorian,
Earl of Gloria.

Well, I guess it must
be really good since
that Earl was so
devoted to it...
And maybe I...
Well, I don't know.





エロイカより愛をこめて

FROM EROICA WITH LOVE

#3

By Yasuko Aoike

Trans. Kx.

NO. 3

Dorian Red Gloria,
the Earl of Gloria,
an art collector and
an aristocratic thief
known as "Eroica"...



Grindlewald,
Switzerland



You smell
lemony
today
my lord.

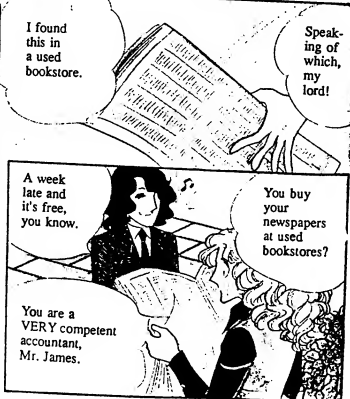
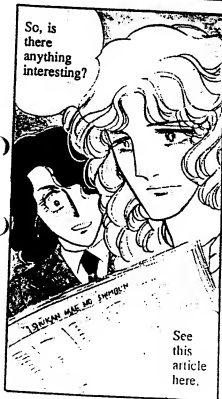
I'm
getting
keen on
scents.

What
is it,
Mr.
James?

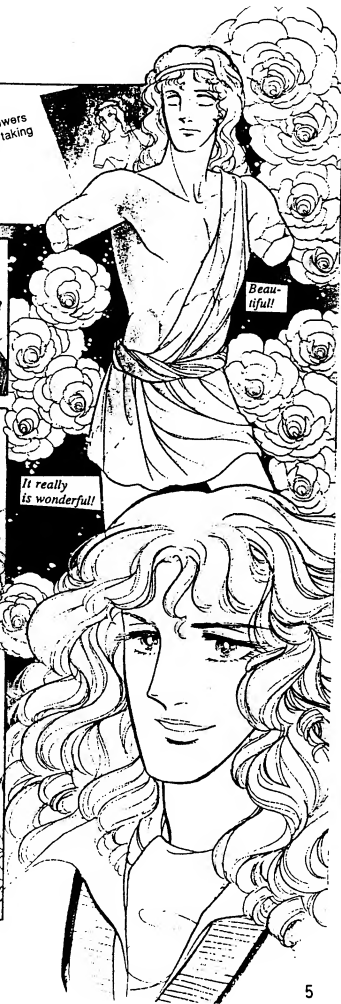
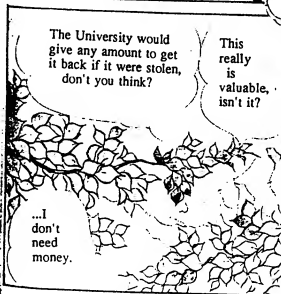
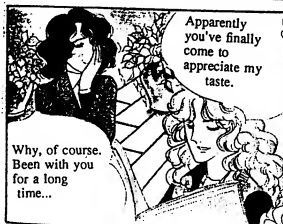
My
lord,

You called
me just to
tell me a
joke like
that?

My
lord,



AN ACHILLES DISCOVERED
At Merton College, Oxford University
...Found during repair work on underground sewers
7 meters below the surface. The University is taking
it in for the time being to prepare for its
public showing later this month...





You know,
It's my right
to possess
all the beauty
in the world.

I want this
sculpture
for purely
personal
reasons.



You needn't
tell me I'm
a thrifty
person...

That
is very
mean,
m'lord
...



Aren't you
glad? You
like free
things.

You
mean,
we'll be
working for
free again?



Gather the men
immediately.
We're heading
to Oxford.



As a token
of my
appreciation
...

I DO
appre-
ciate
your
service,
James.



From now on,
you may buy
papers only
a day late.



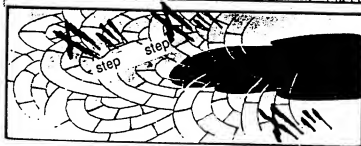
M...
m'lord,

then
you
mean...

My lord!
Oh, my lord!
You're always
so damned
elusive...



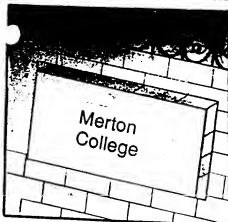
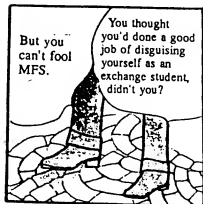
Oxford, England



*My dear
Achilles,
wait for
me. Your
rightful
owner is
coming
to pick
you up.*



MFS is an East German organization.





What're
you doing
there!

FLASH!

brrrang

brrrang

Shit!

Thieves!

Let's
get out
of here!

What's
going
on!?

There were
several
suspicious-
looking
men here!

How's
Achilles?

Thieves?

I trust
you,
Achilles
...



What about
that MFS
information!?

Are you telling
me you came back
empty-handed
after all that?

Idiot!!

Intelligence
Office

You're
going to
Alaska!

I don't
need an
incompetent
subordinate.

I couldn't
get near Achilles
after that. The
University set
up a very
heavy guard...

Under
Achilles'
skirt.

So, where
on Achilles
did you
hide the
information?

Skirt?

How in
hell does
Achilles
wear a
skirt?

Are you
trying
to make
fun of my
ignorance
of art?

You were
supposed to
deal with the
situation
appropriately.
Aren't you
supposed to
be a secret
agent?



Wow! Major!
You know
everything!

I happened to
know something
about the history
of garments.

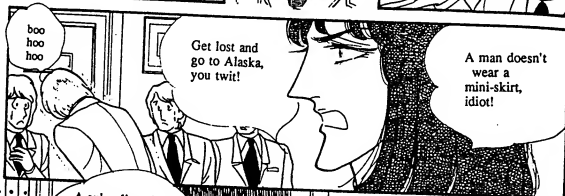


You
mean,
the
chiton?



that
flarey
thing
around
the hips
...

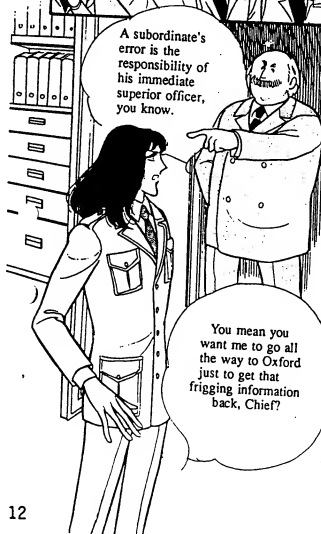
That...
stuff that
looks like a mini-
skirt...



boo
hoo
hoo

Get lost and
go to Alaska,
you twit!

A man doesn't
wear a
mini-skirt,
idiot!



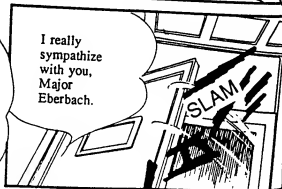
A subordinate's
error is the
responsibility of
his immediate
superior officer,
you know.

You mean you
want me to go all
the way to Oxford
just to get that
frigging information
back, Chief?

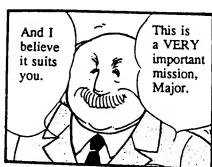


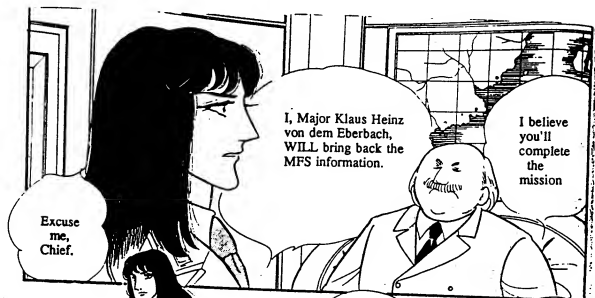
All my
men
are so
darned
dense.

Should've
hidden it
in a
better
place,
damn it.



I really
sympathize
with you,
Major
Eberbach.





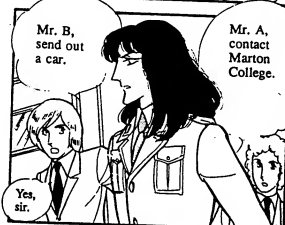
Excuse me, Chief.

I, Major Klaus Heinz von dem Eberbach, WILL bring back the MFS information.

I believe you'll complete the mission

It's all the Greeks' fault for wearing that fucking rag!

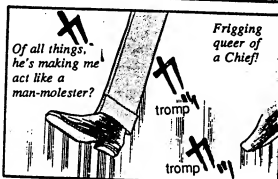
The indecent buggers exposed their thighs like that! A man should never show too much!



Mr. B, send out a car.

Mr. A, contact Marton College.

Yes, sir.



Of all things, he's making me act like a man-molester?

Frigging queer of a Chief!

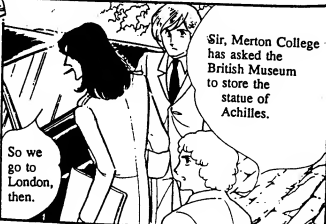
tromp

tromp



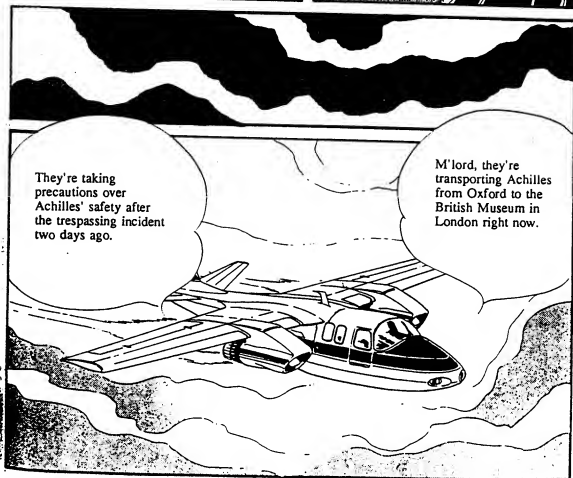
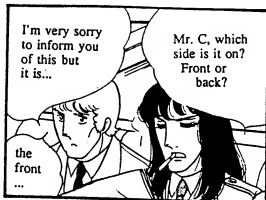
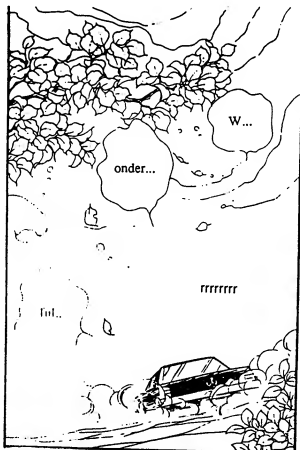
It's a very good hiding place. It's literally a blind spot.

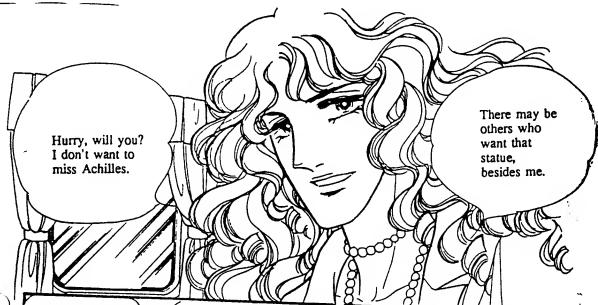
The Soviets don't seem to have noticed this.



Sir, Merton College has asked the British Museum to store the statue of Achilles.

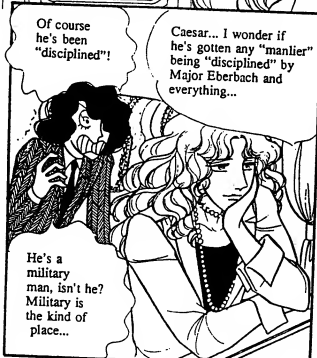
So we go to London, then.





Hurry, will you?
I don't want to
miss Achilles.

There may be
others who
want that
statue,
besides me.



Of course
he's been
"disciplined"!

Caesar... I wonder if
he's gotten any "manlier"
being "disciplined" by
Major Eberbach and
everything...

He's a
military
man, isn't he?
Military is
the kind of
place...

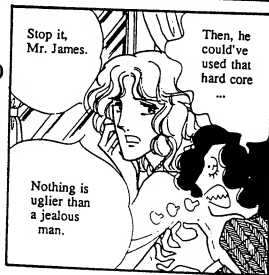


Annoyed,
aren't
you, Mr.
James?

London
again?



Because,
there's a very
revolting boy
called Caesar
Gabriel in
London!



Stop it,
Mr. James.

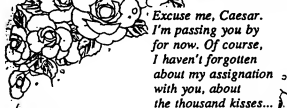
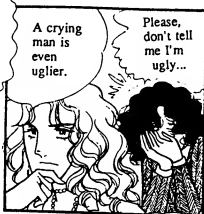
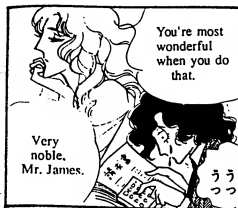
Then, he
could've
used that
hard core
...

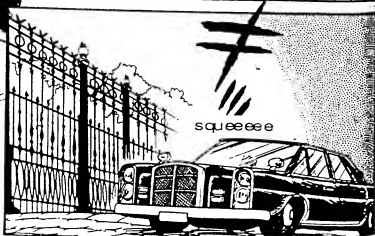
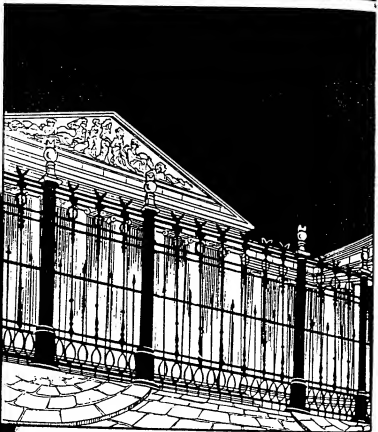
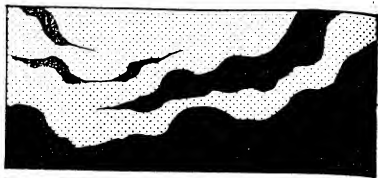
Nothing is
uglier than
a jealous
man.

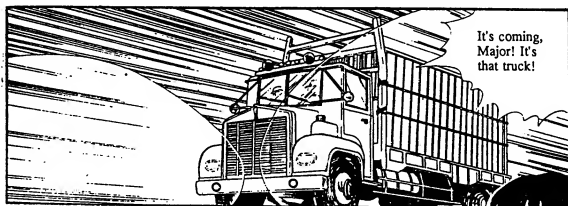


He is a
hard-core
straight.

Unfortunately,
Major Eberbach
is my complete
opposite.









'S nothin' dangerous. Just a piece o' sculpture, it is.

Shut up and take it out!



We're going to check your load.



This is NATO.

'Ey, wot's this heavy guard for?



Well, it's actually rather convenient for US.

Start the operation!

Seems like something's up.

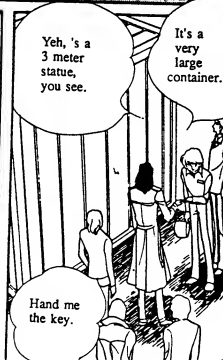
CLICK



To mess with a 3-meter statue's skirt? Me?

It is. I feel sorry for my ancestors ...

It's such an embarrassing mission.



Yeh, 's a 3 meter statue, you see.

It's a very large container.

Hand me the key.



Watch out!

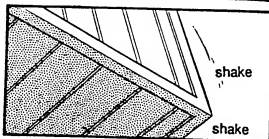
What was that click?



What?

Why what and how?

Why?



shake

shake



Ah...?

Uh?



We'd be squashed if it fell down!

This is ...

Major! It's very dangerous! Please stay away!



What is that?

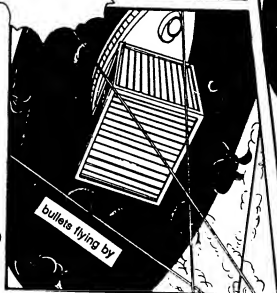
Look at the sky!



noise of gunfire

SHOOT!
Shoot
it down!

It's a
Communist
attack!



bullets flying by

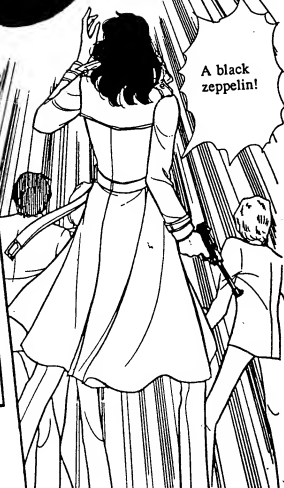


It's
rising
real
quick!

No way,
Major!
It's too
far away!



A black
zeppelin!





Lord Gloria...
Picking
a fight
with me
again,
are you?

Excuse us!
We were
only
joking!!

That was
such a
wonderful
maneuver
...

They
sure are
professional
aren't they?

You
...

That bloody
frigging
queer!! I'll
get you
THIS time.

He's that impudent man
who told me bullshit
about beauty, blah blah
blah, and ended up
stealing my tank...

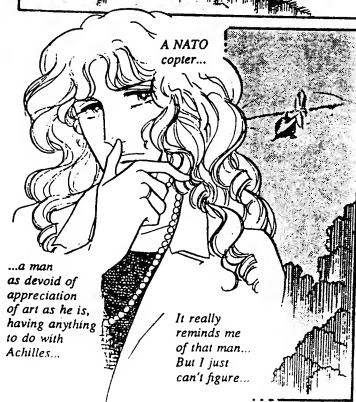
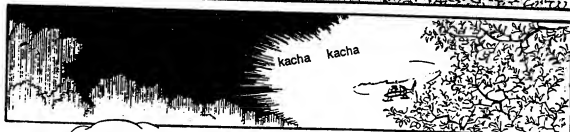
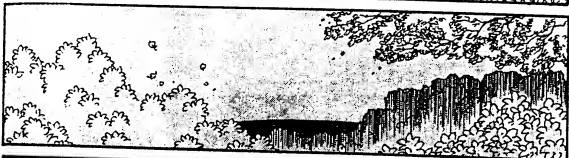
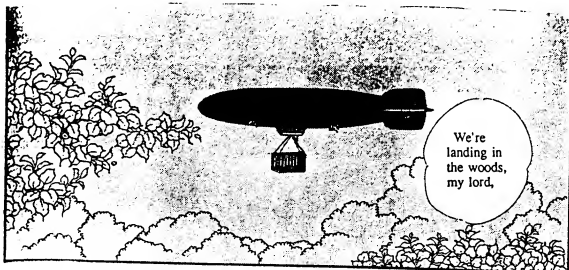
It's a
great
success,
m'lord.

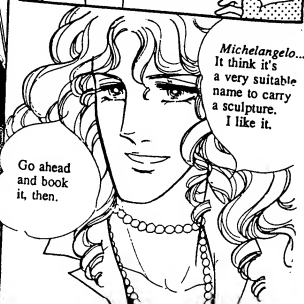
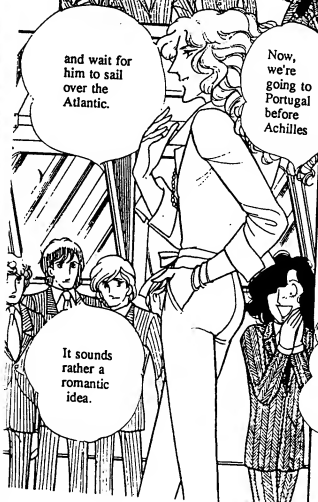
They seem to
have spent lots
of bullets on
us. What a
waste...

It reminds
me of a
particular
man...

But he's
supposed to be
in Bonn,
isn't he?

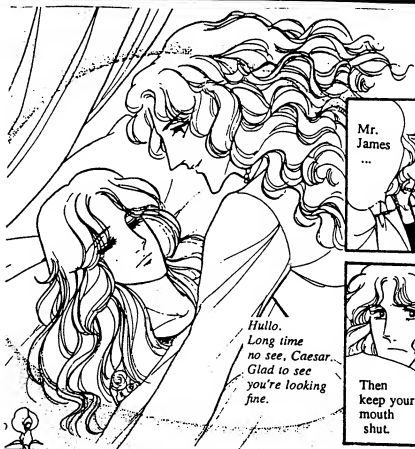
If he's in
London...
He'd
definitely
...







The sleeping beauty



Hullo.
Long time
no see, Caesar.
Glad to see
you're looking
fine.

Mr.
James
...

I follow
you
wherever
you go!
Even to
the john!



Please,
m'lord,
let me
stay!

Then
keep your
mouth
shut.



This is
one-thousandth
of our
assignment...

From
Eroica
with
love...

Seeing you made me
wish to take you
with me so that you
could enjoy the
beautiful springtime
of southern Europe...

I'm going
to Portugal
now.



It was a dream...
I thought the
Earl of Gloria
was standing
right beside me...

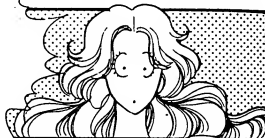
Thought I
heard his
living
voice...



Ah...

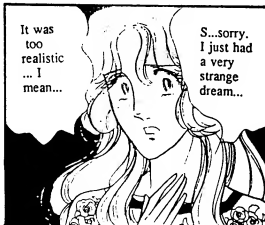


CAESAR
GABRIEL!



Shame
on
you!

What's a
young man
like you
so happy
about,
alone in
bed?



It was
too
realistic
... I
mean...

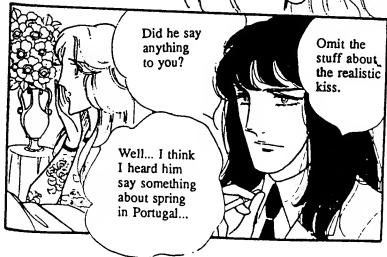
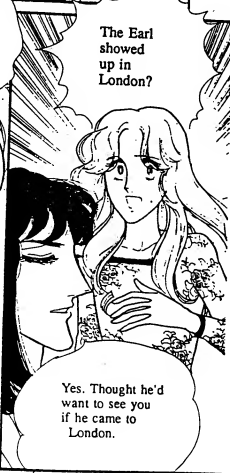
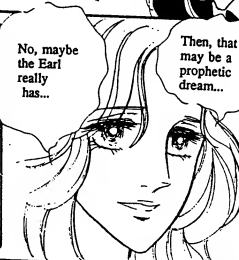
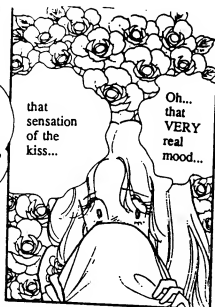
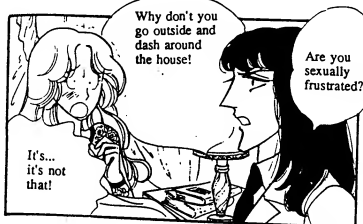
S...sorry.
I just had
a very
strange
dream...



How many
times do I
have to call
you to get
a simple
answer?

The beast...

Major
Eberbach!





Eh...
What did he
steal this
time?

He
snatched
my
precious
skirt.



Portugal,
is it?

Sorry to
disturb you
Caesar.
Now, go back
to sleep.



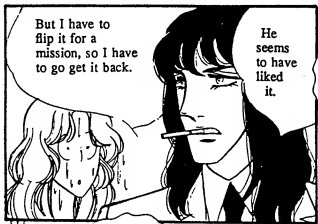
Any
parti-
cular
city?

Portu-
gal?



...
Something
about
taking me
there, too.

No, just
Portugal.



But I have to
flip it for a
mission, so I have
to go get it back.

He
seems
to have
liked
it.



The Earl
of Gloria
stole Major
Eberbach's
skirt?

S...
skirt,

...
you
said?



snatched
the skirt
and...

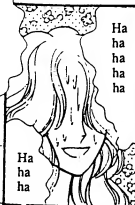
the NATO
mission is...
a skirt-
flipping?

Eh...
Lord
Gloria
liked...

Major
Eberbach's
skirt and
...



I... I think I'm gonna dash around the house!!



Ha ha ha

Ha ha ha ha ha



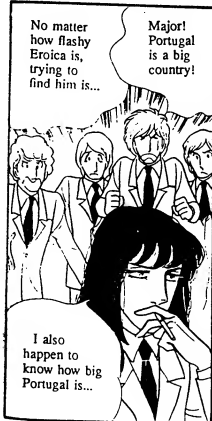
That's right.



Reckon even a genius can't beat spring fever.

Sexual frustration. He has come to realize his own symptoms.

What's wrong with that boy, sir?



No matter how flashy Eroica is, trying to find him is...

Major! Portugal is a big country!

I also happen to know how big Portugal is...



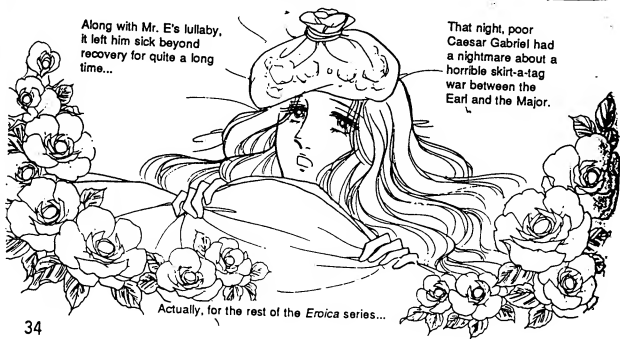
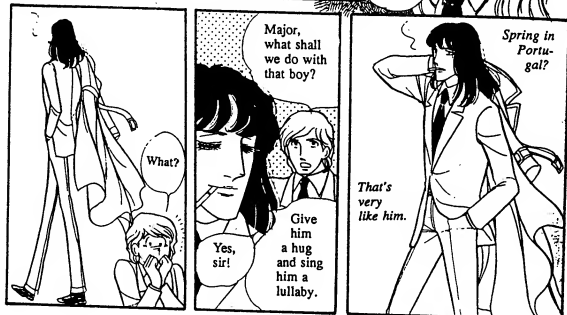
Eroica went to Portugal.

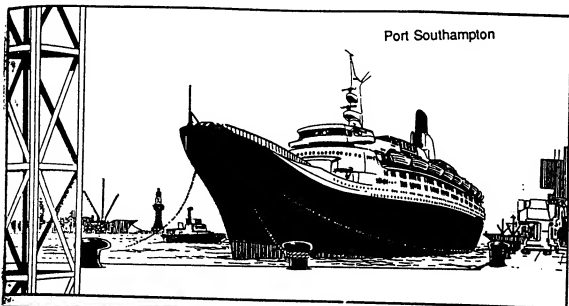
I don't know where in Portugal, yet. Do your best to find out!



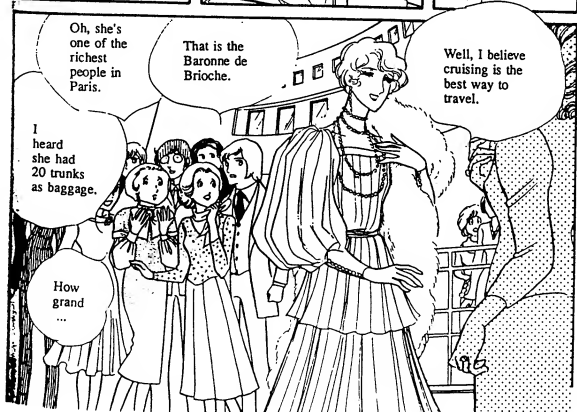
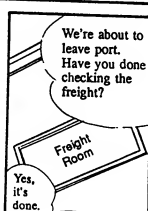
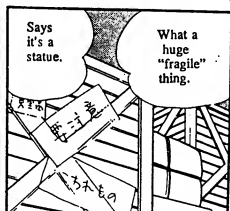
Major, a neighbor saw a young man with long, curly hair.

He DID come here, then.

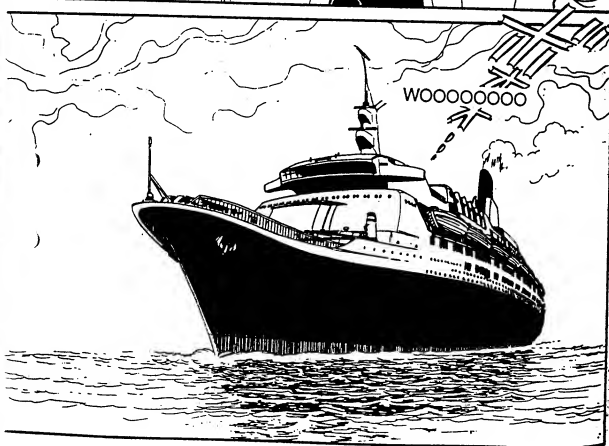




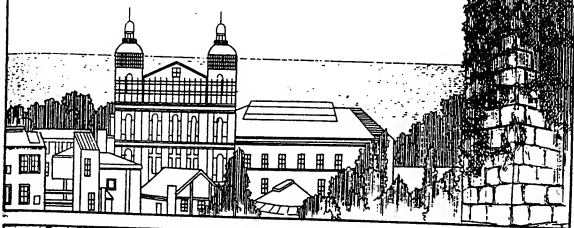
And it's going to Lisbon, Portugal?



Suspicious-looking
man with classic
dark glasses.



Lisbon, Portugal



It'll be
at least
a week
from now.



When is the
Michelangelo
supposed
to arrive?

What a wonderful
city Lisbon is.
We don't have to
spend any money
on food.

Here comes
another
main dish!

Yeh, he
went to
Spain all
by himself
this
morning.

The Earl
is already
getting
impatient.

And go
fishing
every
fucking
day...



Quite a catch, isn't it?

Oh, no, no. It's not enough for supper.



I see.

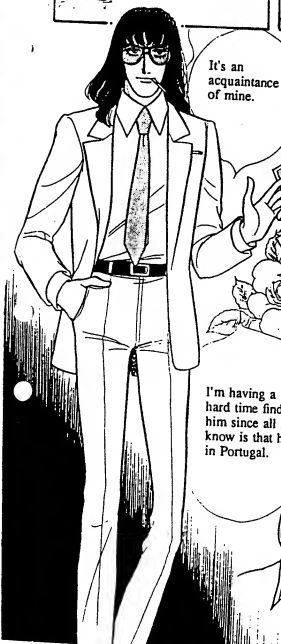
That's them...



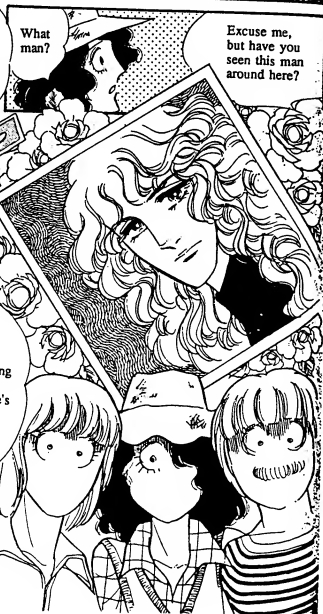
He really is strong on that, isn't he?

Yeh. I'm pretty sure.

Do you think he's stealing something there?



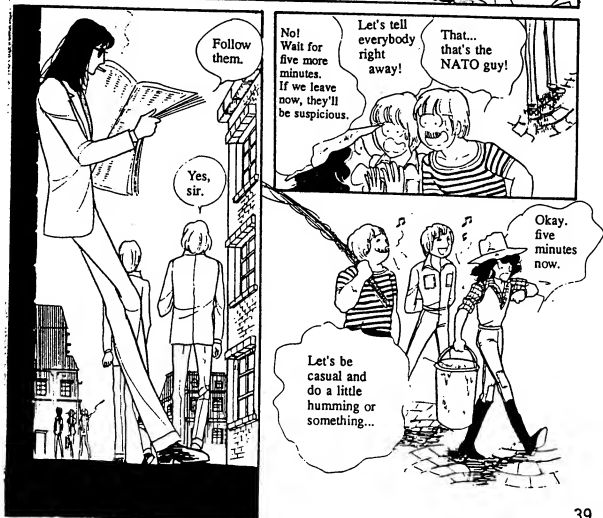
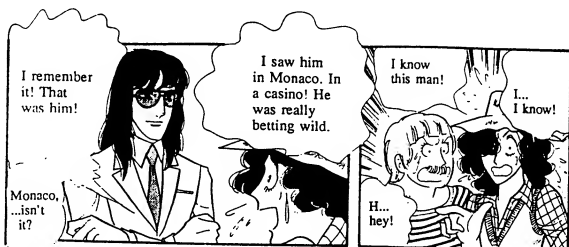
It's an acquaintance of mine.



What man?

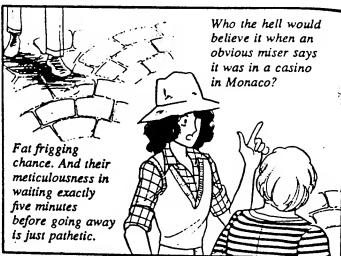
Excuse me, but have you seen this man around here?

I'm having a hard time finding him since all I know is that he's in Portugal.



doesn't
seem to have
competent
subordinates
either.

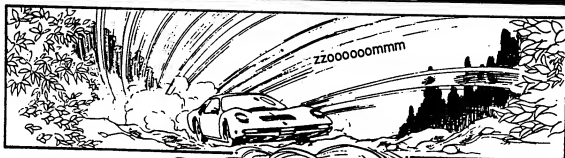
The
Earl
...



Who the hell would
believe it when an
obvious miser says
it was in a casino
in Monaco?

Fat frigging
chance. And their
meticulousness in
waiting exactly
five minutes
before going away
is just pathetic.

I'd love to sympathize
with him about that,
but that's for after
I get the Achilles...



if they realize
this painting's
been stolen...

That church
in Toledo
may be in an
uproar by now.





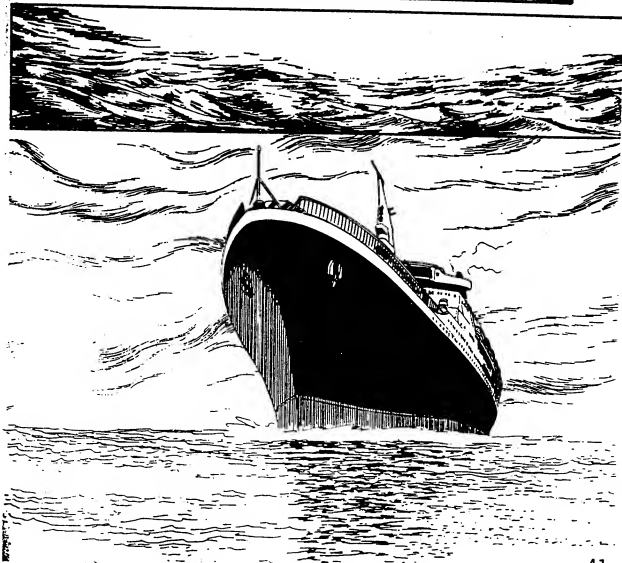
Of course he does!
It's Tyrian Perssmon
as a young boy...

Looks like it's
anonymous,
but... it's a very
good painting
in any case.
I really like it.



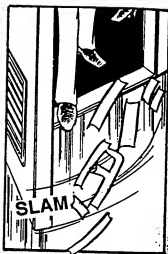
Achilles, where on
the Atlantic are you
now? Come to me quickly.
The beauty of you is...
mine...

My philosophy
is to get
whatever I
like.





You...
you
are!!

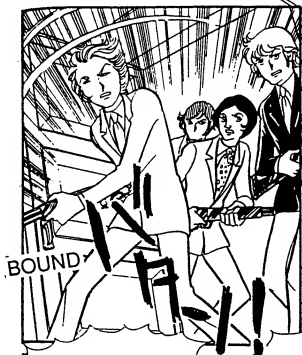


Madame?



Oui?





Eeeceek!

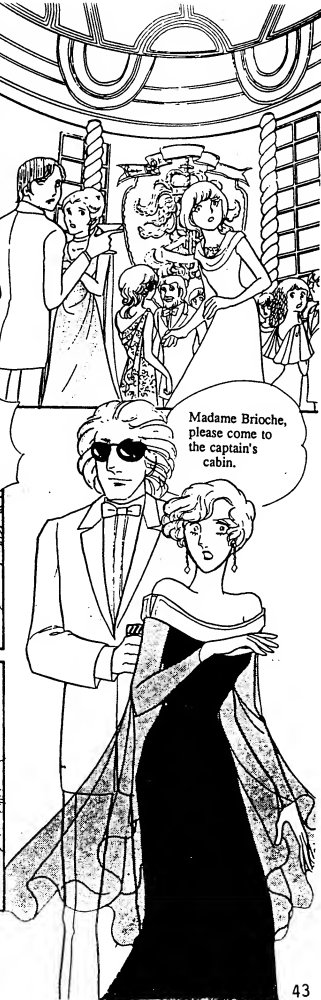
What
is
this!?

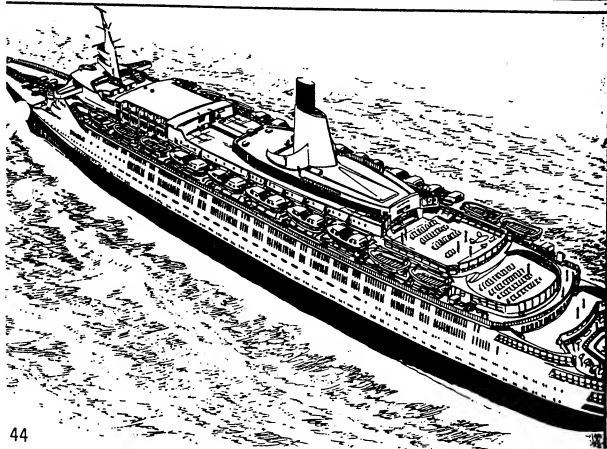
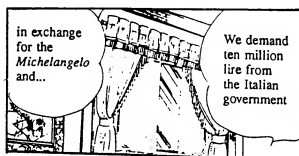
Oh, no!
no, no!

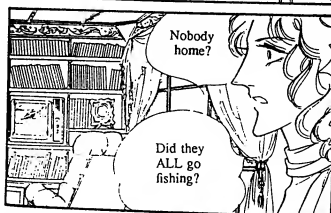
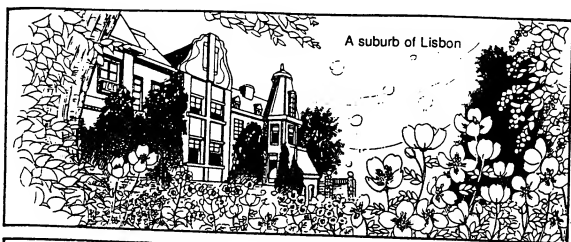


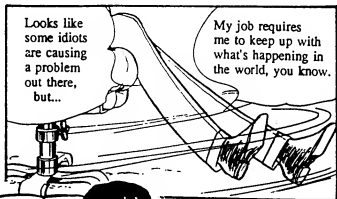
If you
keep quiet,
we'll fix
you.

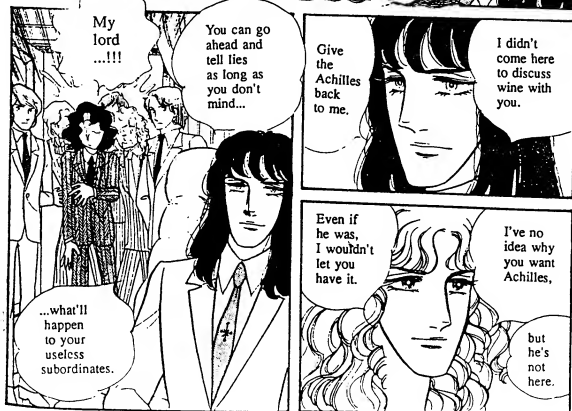
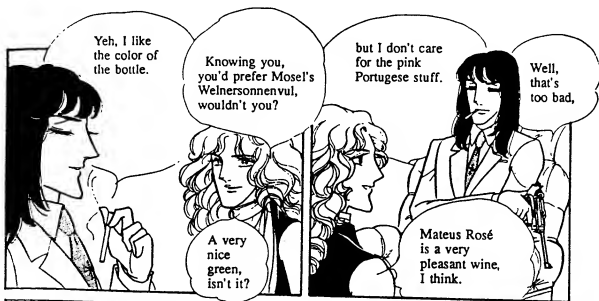
Shut up.
We don't
want anything
from all
of you.













Then,
where is
it now?

On the
Atlantic
Ocean.

Don't do
that.
It'd be
creepy.

I can
swear
on a
Bible.

I DO mind
very much,
but it's
just not
here.

You mean,
you shipped
it by sea?

Ocean?

So I loaded
it onto a
Mediterranean
cruise ship
leaving
Southampton...

My accountant
told me it was
cheaper AND
reliable.

Why did
you pick
that one!?

IDIOT

Don't
tell me
it's the
Italian
...

Wait a
minute.
You'd
better be
kidding.

What's
wrong
with
Michel-
angelo?

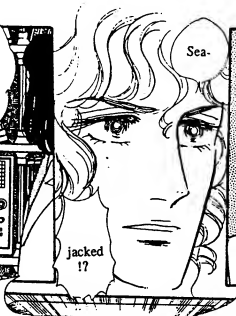
What's
cheap and
reliable
about it!!

Why?

Michel-
angelo.



I listen to the TV. It's been reporting nothing but that story.



Sea-

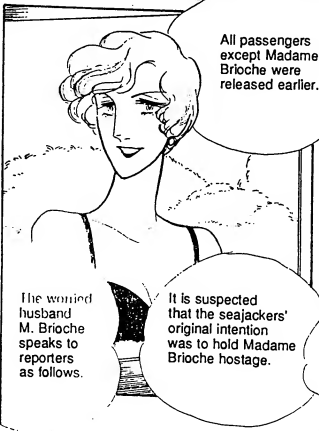
jacked
!?



It's been sea-jacked.

The man claiming to be the leader of the seajackers took five hostages in the captain's cabin, including the Baronne de Brioché.

The Atlantic is in heavy turmoil due to the seajacking of the *Michelangelo* cruise ship that took place earlier today.

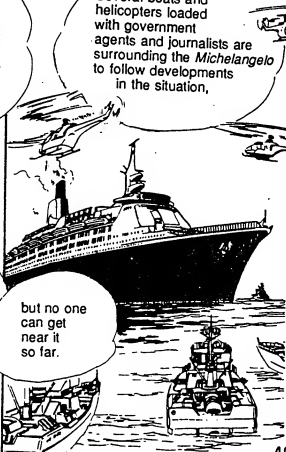


All passengers except Madame Brioché were released earlier.

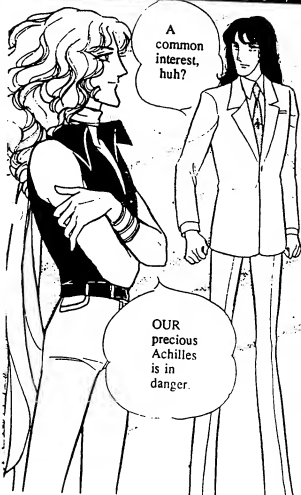
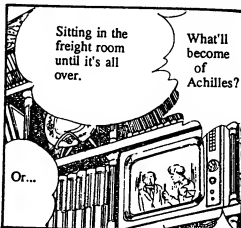
The worried husband M. Brioché speaks to reporters as follows.

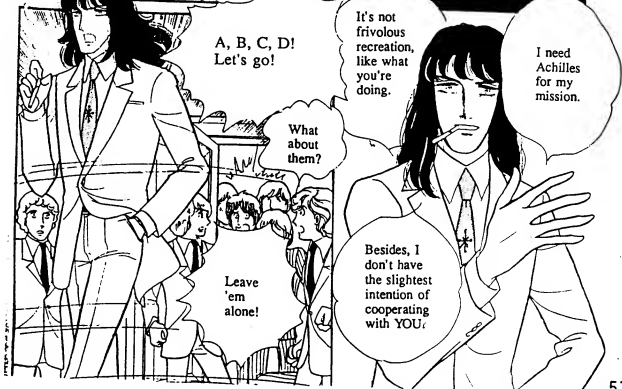
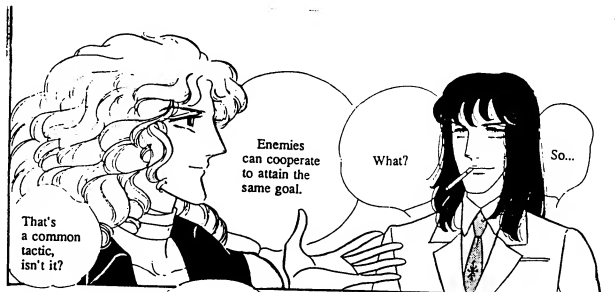
It is suspected that the seajackers' original intention was to hold Madame Brioché hostage.

Several boats and helicopters loaded with government agents and journalists are surrounding the *Michelangelo* to follow developments in the situation,



but no one can get near it so far.





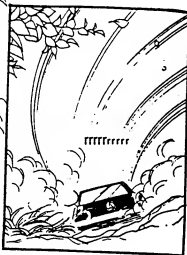


My
lord!!

I'm
very
sorry!!

is always
very very
like you...
It's very
nice...

You're
wonderful,
Major.
Whatever
you do...



If you want
Achilles for
the sake of
your mission,
Major, I'd
take him for
the sake of
principle.

It's okay,
Mr. James.
It's not
your fault.

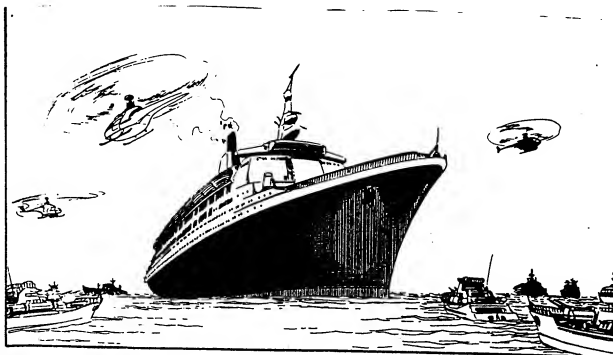
All the blame
goes to that
bourgeois
bitch who
happened to
be on the ship.

If I weren't
so tight with
the shipping
fee, this
couldn't
have...

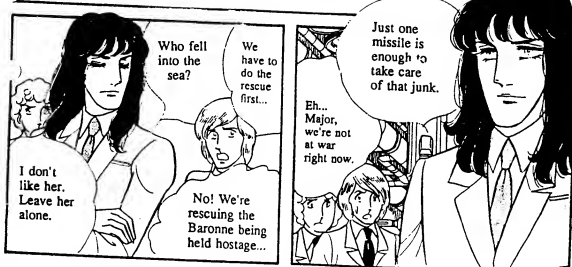
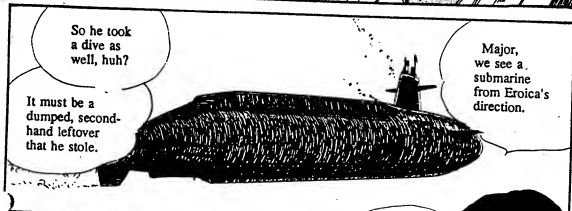
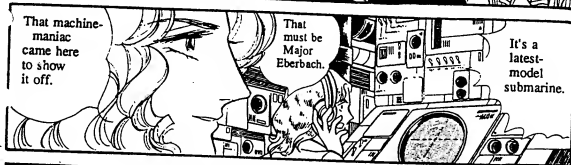
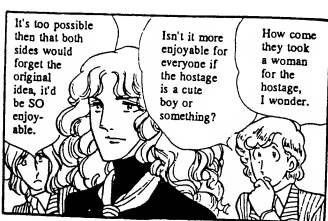
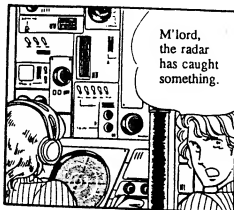
Don't let Major
Eberbach beat
us. We have
priority on
Achilles.

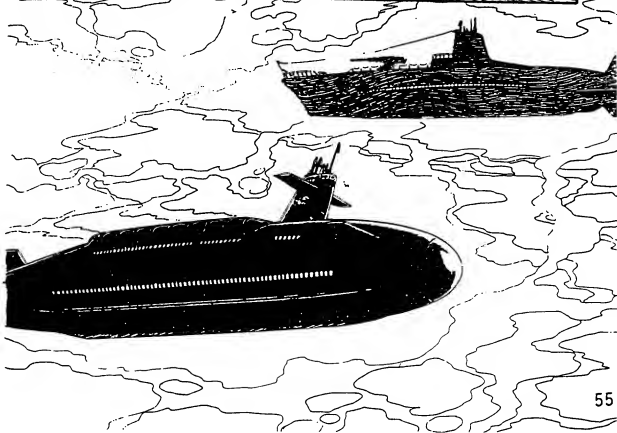
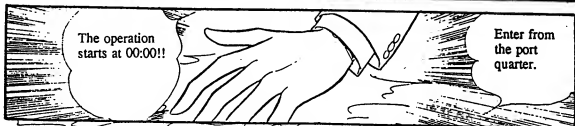
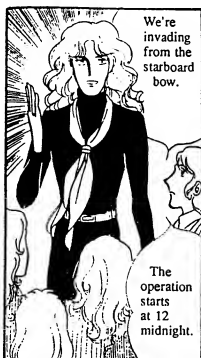
Men,
let's go.

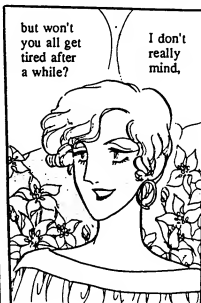
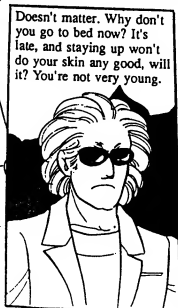
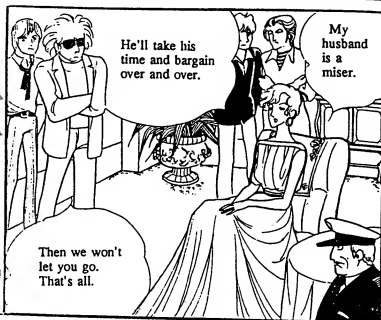
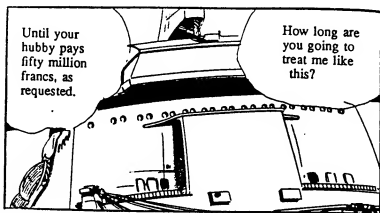
My very
egotistic
motivation
is to own
whatever
I like no
matter
what.

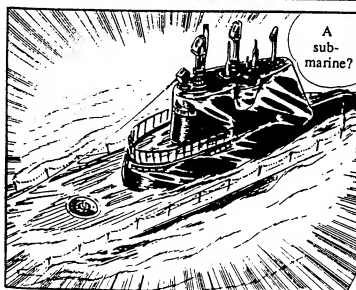
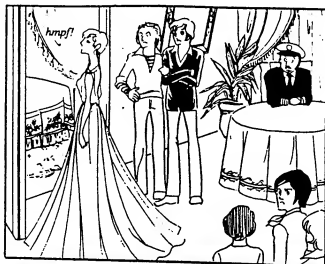


<p>Let's save Achilles before that happens. And save Madame too.</p> <p>Let's observe some "respect for human life."</p>	<p>Looks like it's gonna drag on..</p> <p>Hope the seajackers don't get impatient and blow it up...</p>	<p>However, no progress has been made for the release of the remaining hostages.</p> <p>Three days have elapsed since the seajacking event.</p> <p>40, no</p> <p>30, well, make it 25...</p> <p>Well, wait a minute ...</p> <p>Monsieur Brioché has started to bargain over the ransom.</p> <p>She's been a bad wife to me.</p> <p>Save the workers before saving a ship!</p> <p>The Italian government is also agonizing under its huge international deficit.</p>
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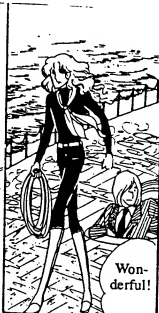




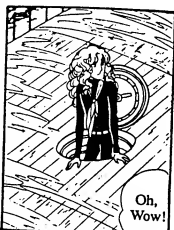


He's
fabulously
marvelous!!

He's
great!
Grand!



Won-
derful!

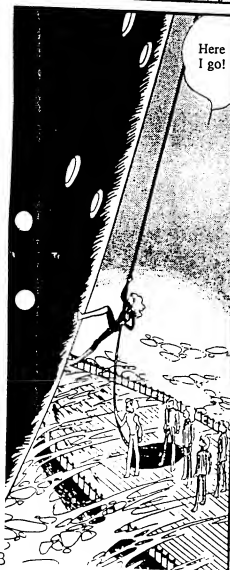


Oh,
Wow!

The hero's
great-looking,
isn't he?.
because the
villains are
ugly.



He must've
come to
rescue me!

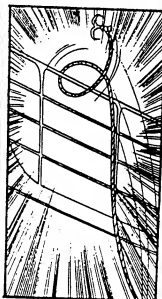


Here
I go!



Let's
not
do it,
m'lord.

Yes,
we will.
We must
respect
human life,
mustn't we?



M'lord,
there's a
white thing
making lots
of noise
up there.

That
must be
the
Baronne.



What awaits me...



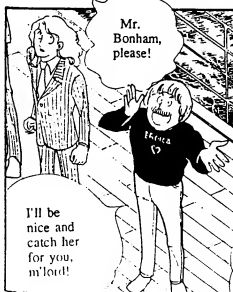
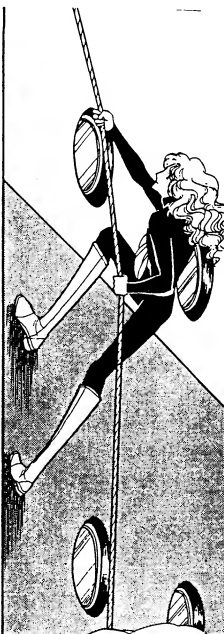
Oh, how very poetic you are!

I feel like a convict ascending the 13 stairs for death.



Oh, but I feel like Juliet waiting for Romeo.

Please don't lean over that much.



Mr. Bonham, please!

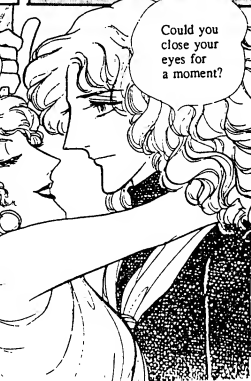
I'll be nice and catch her for you, m'lord!



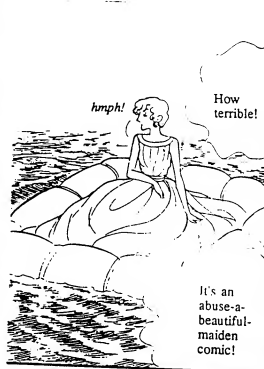
Sure. Do whatever you wish, mon chéri.



Your skin's so ggy...



Could you close your eyes for a moment?



humpf!

How terrible!

It's an abuse-a-beautiful-maiden comic!



What shall we do with her?

Why don't we just leave her around somewhere.



But.. I changed me mind.



hurry to the freight room!

Now that we've got rid of that obstacle,

WHUMP

Who is that?

Ow!





did
it!

You...



The
Baronne
has
escaped!

How
could
she?

What?



WHAM

THIS
is my
answer!



Who
are
you?

Hey!



Then,
this
man...

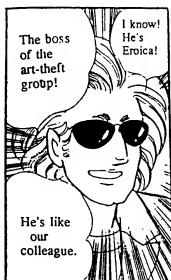


Shut up!
You
runabout!

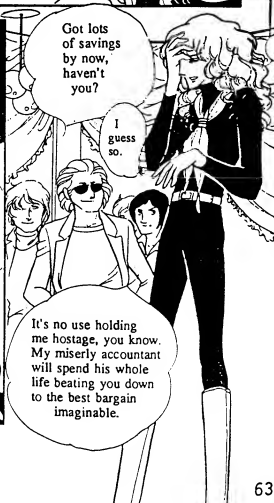
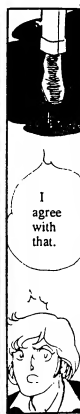


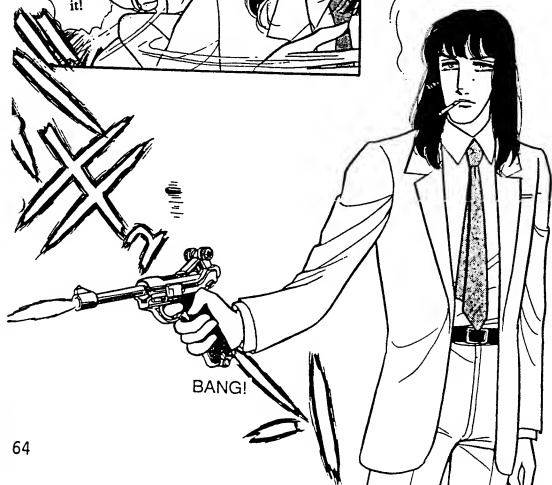
How dare
you
interfere
with us!

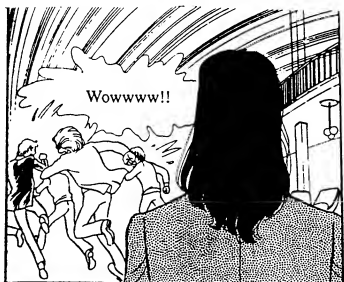
Don't
shake me.
My head
hurts...



I know!
He's
Eroica!

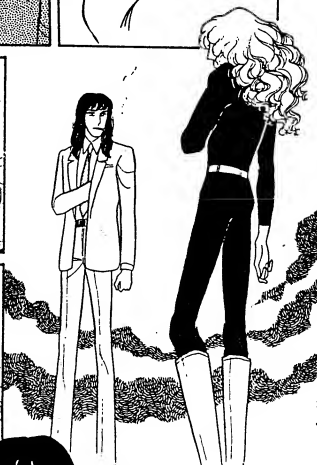






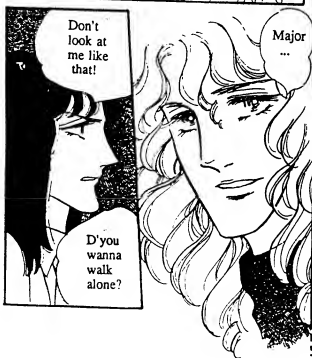
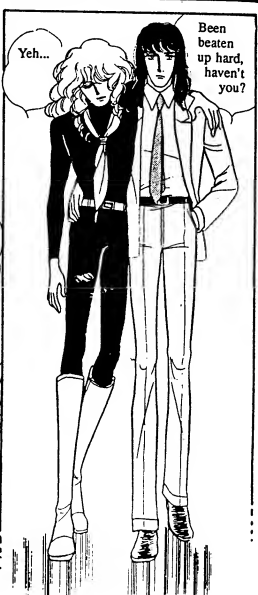
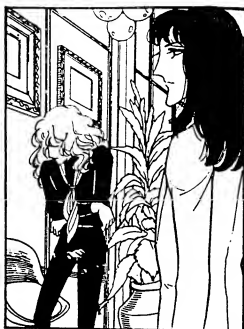
You are a thief.

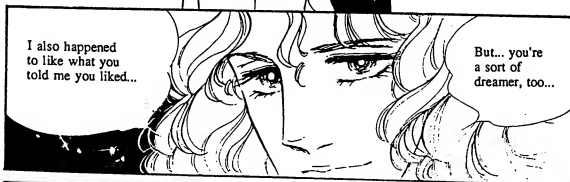
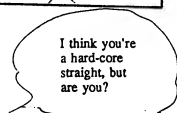
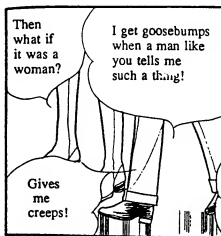
I thought I was a professional too.

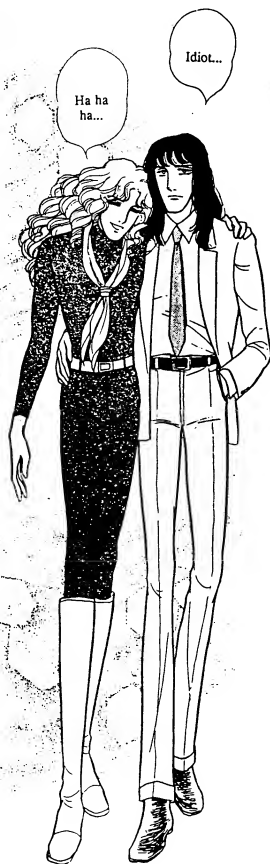
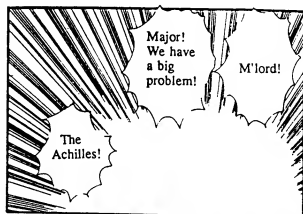


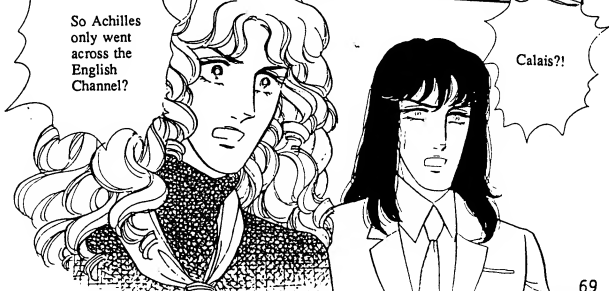
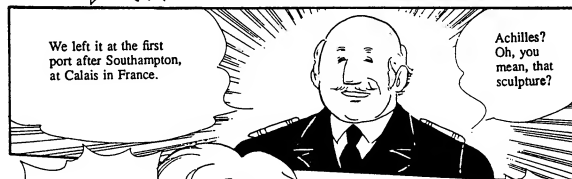
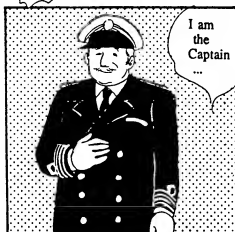
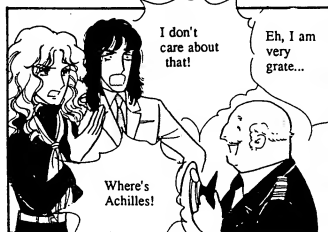
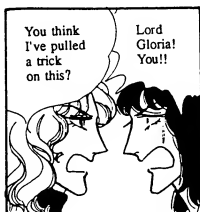
Well, you're right. It's something I wasn't used to...













Couldn't NATO Intelligence find that information!?

Damn the British Museum!



And, when we checked our freight, we found Achilles, so...

The British Museum was inquiring of every transport facility about the stolen object.

Who the fuck cares what a museum does!?



Now it's in the Louvre, huh?

I hear that Achilles has been sent to the Louvre Museum in Paris.

It must be open to the public by now.



All due to my thrift about shipping ...

Oh... it's all my fault...



THAT is my mission.

No matter where he goes, I'll flip his frigging skirt.



Achilles doesn't wanna be yours, your lordship.

What a waste of work.

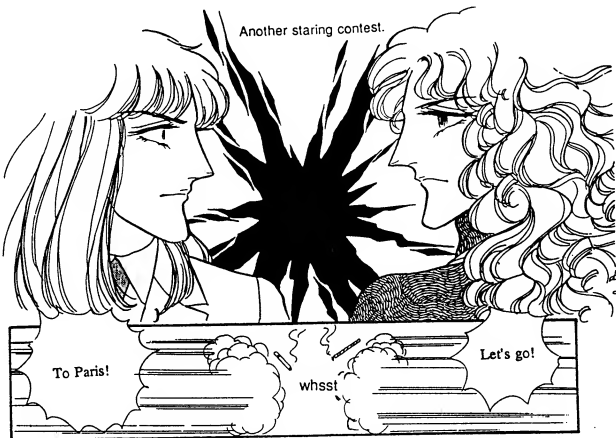


All I can say at this point is that I'll get Achilles, NO MATTER WHAT!

AND I won't let you do that.

Looks to me like he's running away YOU, Major.

Another staring contest.



They
are
the...

Then...
then...

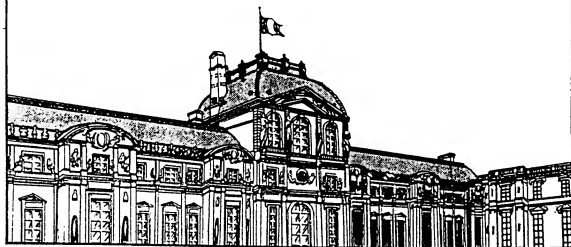
as if
obsessed...

Didn't they come
for us? Funny.
All they said was
"Achilles,
Achilles,"

Thieves!!!



Louvre Museum



The museum is betting its pride and credibility in guarding it, because of the first theft.



This is gonna be one heck of a job, innit?

Yes ...



It really is a heavy guard.

Plus, these people...





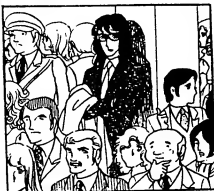
And...
Must I aim
...THERE?



This is bad...
The guard's too
heavy... The
problem is how
to get close...



M'lord,
There's
somebody
we all
know over
there.

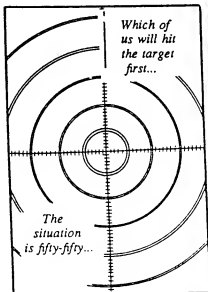


I know. Keep
your eyes on
that screwy
blond,

though I don't
think he can do
anything easily
for now.



Major,
there's...



Which of
us will hit
the target
first...

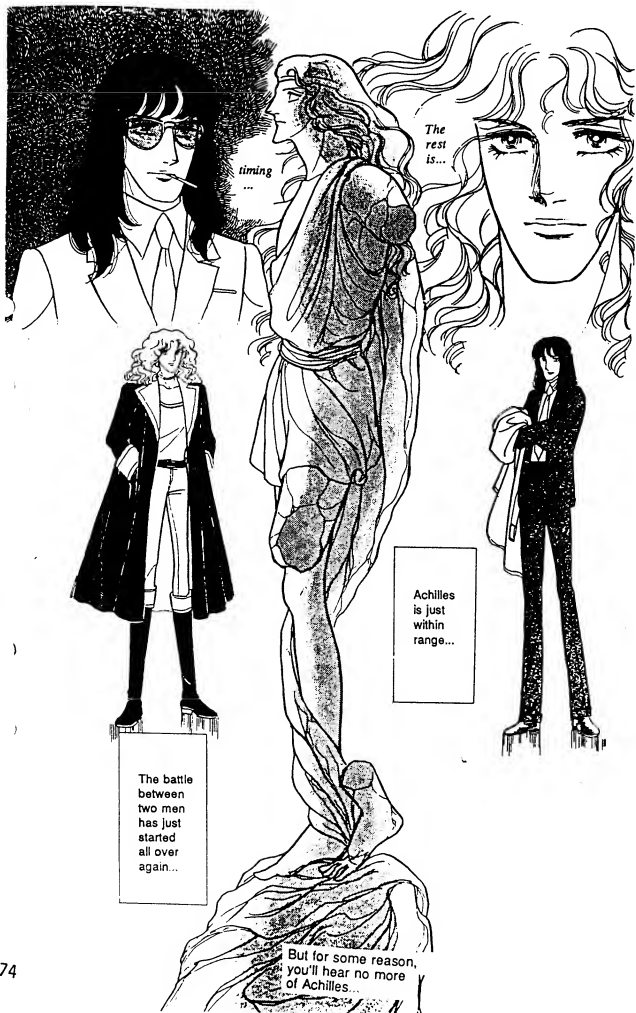
The
situation
is fifty-fifty...



But we
both are profes-
sionals.



You seem to be lost,
too, Major.



timing
...

The
rest
is...

Achilles
is just
within
range...

The battle
between
two men
has just
started
all over
again...

But for some reason,
you'll hear no more
of Achilles...